October 15th—October 21st, 1987, No. 42 75¢

THE Fisherman

LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION

LIVE LINING

★★★

METRO PIER FISHING

★★★

RTH ORE JES

★★

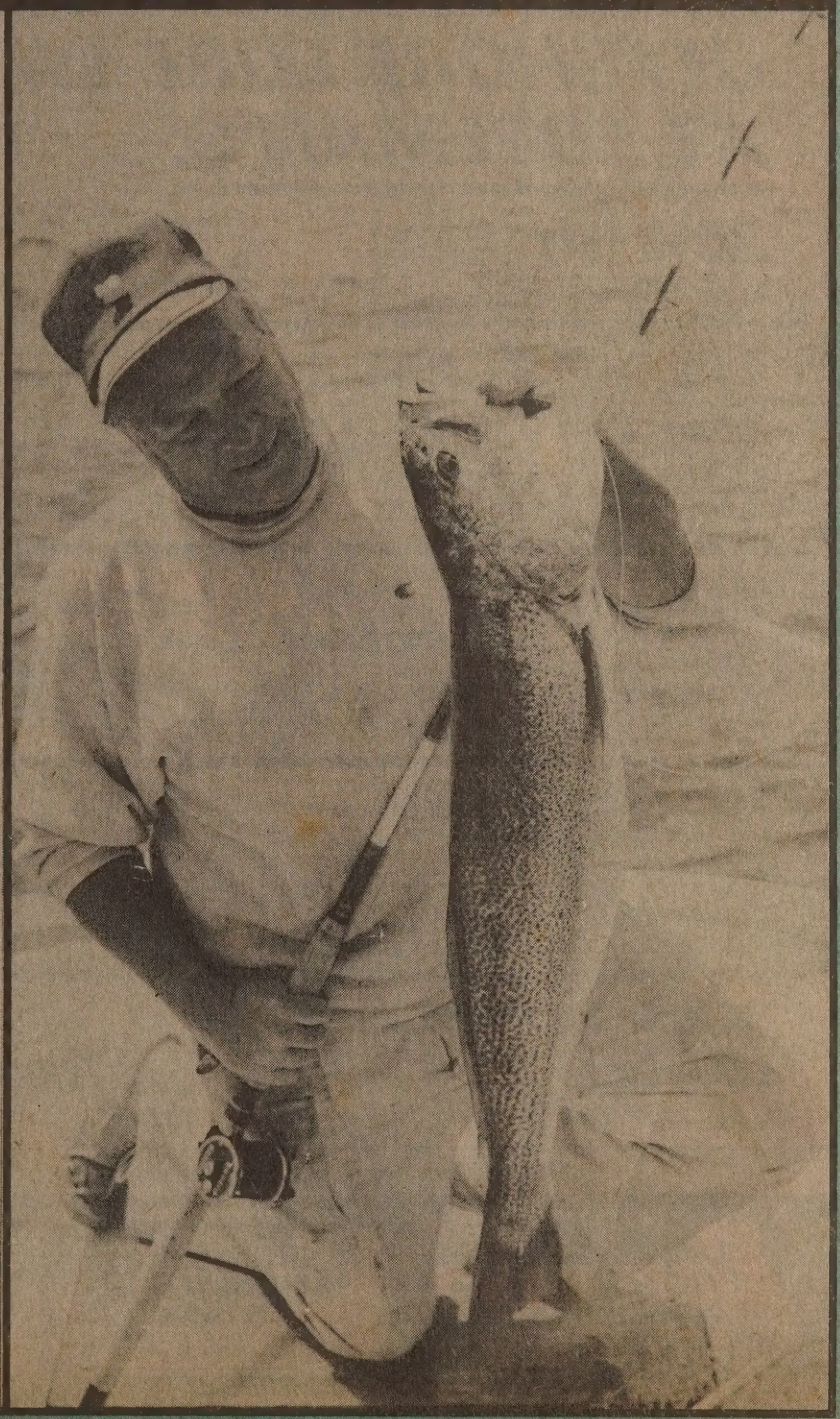
THE CKS"

★★

TEE TS

★★

AUTUMN TAUTOG



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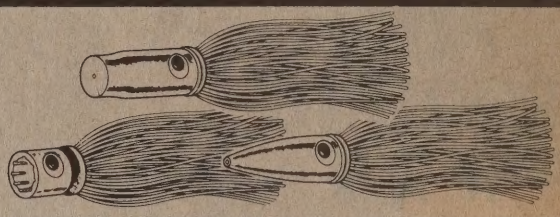

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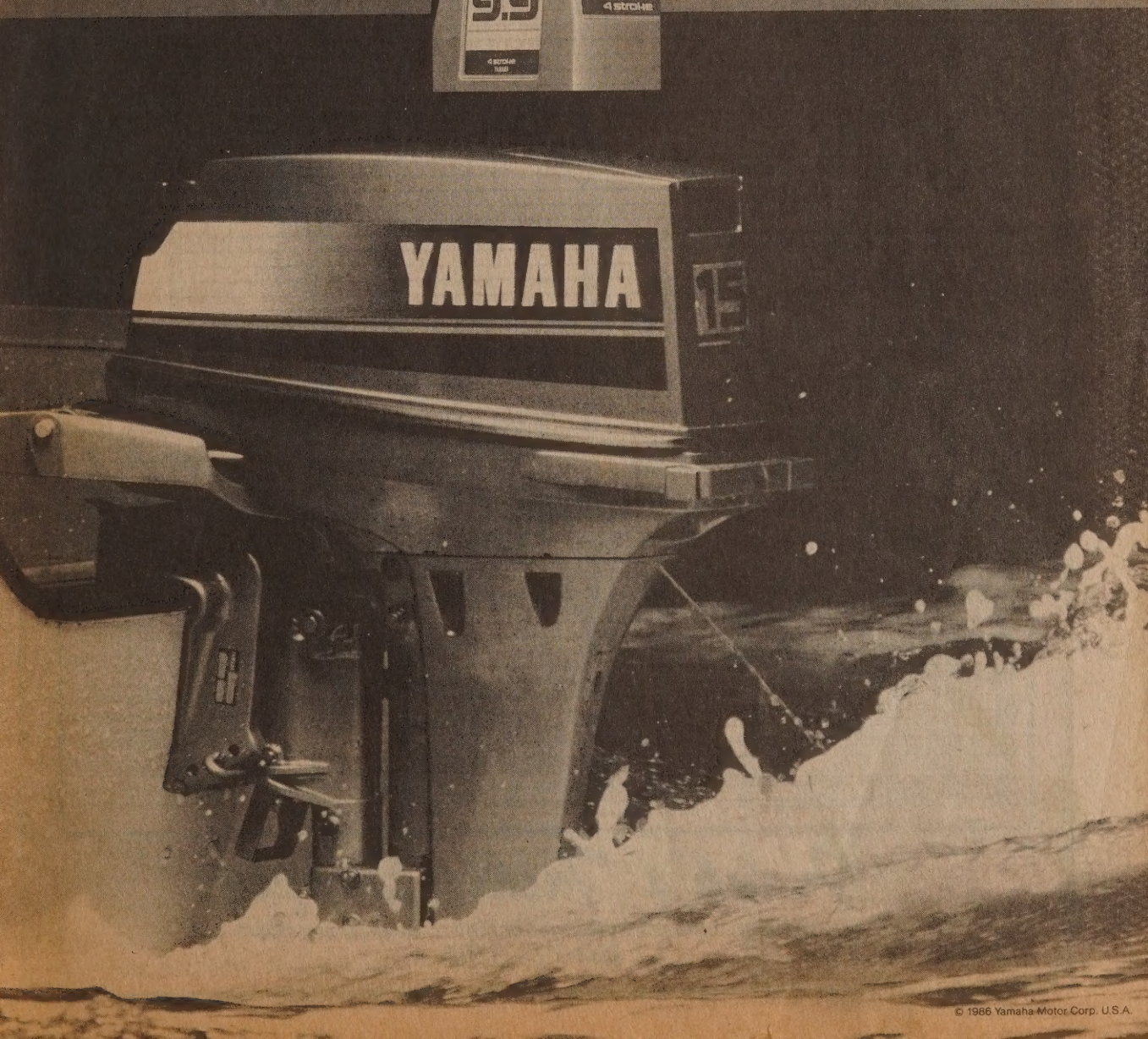

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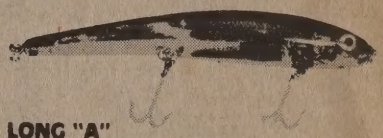
Tie One On

BOMBER LURES

New

16J JOINTED HEAVY DUTY SHALLOW RUNNER



LONG "A" SHALLOW RUNNER

COLOR CHART / ORDER FORM

CODE	DESCRIPTION	15A 4 1/2"	QTY. NEEDED	16A 6"	QTY. NEEDED	17A 7"	QTY. NEEDED	16J 6"	QTY. NEEDED
XBB	BABY BASS	*		*		*		NA	
XTS	TENN. SHAD	*		*		*		NA	
XBS	BABY STRIPER	*		*		*		NA	
XM7	FIRE RIVER MINNOW/ORG. BELLY	NA		*		NA		NA	
XB1O	BREAM/ORG BELLY	*		*		NA		NA	
XSI	SILVER FLASH	*		NA		*		*	
XS1O	SILVER FLASH/ORG. BELLY	*		*		*		NA	
XCH	CHARTREUSE FLASH	*		NA		*		NA	
XCHO	CHARTREUSE FLASH/ORG. BELLY	*		*		*		NA	
XMK	GOLD CHROME	NA		*		NA		NA	
XMKO	GOLD CHROME/ORG. BELLY	NA		NA		NA		NA	
XMB	CHROME/BLACK BACK	*		*		*		*	
XMBO	CHROME BLK. BACK/ORG. BELLY	*		*		*		NA	
XSIL	SILVER FLASH/BLUE BACK	NA		*		*		*	
XSIG	SILVER FLASH/GREEN BACK/WHITE BELLY	*		*		*		*	
XS104	SILVER FLASH/WHITE BACK/RED HEAD	*		*		*		*	
X40	SILVER SHAD MINNOW	NA		*		NA		NA	
XSICH	SILVER FLASH/CHART. BACK & BELLY	NA		*		*		NA	
XNAT	NAT. BONE FINISH	*		*		*		NA	
XSIPK	SILVER FLASH/PINK BACK & BELLY	NA		*		NA		NA	
XSPM	SPANISH MACKERAL	NA		*		NA		NA	
XBON	BONITO	NA		*		*		NA	
X02	ALL BLACK	*		*		*		*	
X02F	BLACK INSERT/BLACK BACK	*		*		*		NA	
XYBS	YELLOW BABY STRIPER	*		*		*		*	
PYRG	YELLOW STRIPES/YELLOW BACK	*		*		*		*	
ALBO	LUM. BLACK/ORG. BELLY/DOT	*		*		*		NA	
ALLO	LUM. BLUE/ORG. BELLY/DOT	*		*		*		NA	
ALLFYO	LUM. CHART./ORG. BELLY/DOT	NA		*		NA		NA	
ALSGO	LUM. SIGNAL GREEN/ORG. BELLY/DOT	NA		*		NA		NA	
APBO	PEARL/BLK. BACK/ORG. BELLY/DOT	*		*		*		*	
APYO	PEARL/YELLOW BACK/ORG. BELLY/DOT	*		*		*		NA	
APLO	PEARL/BLUE SIDE/BLACK BACK/ORG. BELLY/DOT	*		*		*		*	
APSG	PEARL/SIGNAL GREEN BACK/DOT	NA		*		NA		NA	
APCH	PEARL/CHART. BACK/DOT	*		*		*		NA	
APBCR	PEARL/GRAY RIBS/CHART BK./ORG. HEAD	*		*		*		NA	
ALS1	MOTHER-OF PEARL	*		*		*		*	
ALS3	WHITE BELLY/CHART.SIDES/ORG.BK. W/BLK STRIPE	NA		*		NA		NA	
ALS5	FIRE ORG./YELLOW BELLY/BLK. SPOTS	NA		*		NA		NA	
ACHSGO	CHART. INSERT/SIGNAL GREEN BK./ORG. BELLY	NA		*		NA		NA	
ASISGW	SILVER INSERT/SIGNAL GREEN BK. WHITE BELLY	NA		NA		NA		NA	
ACHLO	CHART. INSERT/BLUE BK./ORG. BELLY	NA		NA		NA		NA	
XCHSGO	CHART. INSERT/SIGNAL GREEN BK./ORG. BELLY	NA		*		NA		NA	
AFO	FLOUR. ORANGE	NA		*		NA		NA	
XSICH	SILVER INSERT/CHART. BK. & BELLY	NA		NA		NA		NA	
CC2	FLOUR GREEN OVER BLAZE ORANGE	NA		*		NA		NA	
CC3	BLACK OVER FLOUR. ORANGE	NA		NA		NA		NA	
CC4	BLUE OVER SILVER CHROME	NA		*		*		NA	
CC5	YELLOW OVER WHITE	*		*		*		NA	
CC6	BLACK OVER GOLD CHROME	NA		*		NA		NA	
CC7	GRAY OVER BLAZE ORANGE	NA		*		NA		NA	
APB	PEARL/BLK. BACK	*		*		*		*	
CC1	BLACK OVER PURPLE	NA		NA		NA		NA	
AMFYW	SILVER CHROME/CHART. BK./WHITE BELLY/DOT	NA		*		NA		NA	
XBBO	BABY BASS/ORG. BELLY	NA		NA		NA		NA	

* - COLOR AVAILABLE NA - NOT AVAILABLE

Frank's Tackle Supply

Jobstown-Juliustown Road, Jobstown, New Jersey 08041

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THE Fisherman

LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION

Volume 22, Number 42 October 15th, 1987

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ABOUT THE COVER:

This huge 16½ pound tidewater weak fell prey to a live bunker being drifted in Jones Inlet by Dick Mermon. Trophy weaks, bass and blues are all suckers for live bait. For some tips on the art of live-lining, see the article on page 20. Photo by Dick Mermon.

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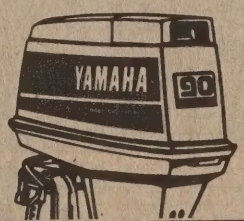
Bring the boat your customer wants and we'll rig it with the Yamaha he desires.



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Designed and built as a full keeled fishing hull, the Alura 30 is definitely an offshore craft, capable of long cruises in open water with the power & stability to get you there and back in safety and comfort.
30
This is a no-nonsense craft, built for years of care-free, low maintenance pleasure.
- Single 270 H.P. gas (Diesel optional)
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PASS IT ON

ATLANTIS ANGLERS CHARITY BLUEFISH TOURNEY

The Atlantis Anglers announce their 3rd Annual Charity Bluefish Tourney to be held Saturday, October 17th with a "blown-out" date of Saturday, October 24th. Fish caught by competing boats will be donated to the Long Island Food Bank.

All boats will be returning to Town of Hempstead's Guy Lombardo Marina.

SAFE BOATING COURSE

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 13-6, Short Beach, New York, is again presenting a course at the Freeport High School Cafeteria, Sunrise Highway and South Brookside Drive, Freeport, New York. This will be a six lesson course, with a starting date on Monday, October 19th at 8PM sharp. A pre-registration time of 7:30PM is required by all, to enroll in this free course, which will continue every Monday thereafter. A text book and course paraphernalia will be supplied at a nominal fee. A certificate of graduation will be presented to those students who pass the final test at the end of the course. Most insurance companies allow a 10 percent deduction on boat insurance when this certificate is presented as proof of course education completion.

Additional information and pre-registration may be obtained by contacting the Public Education Officers, Richard Cantwell, (516) 379-1665; Cmdr. Paul Rothamel, (516) 623-0403 and Vice/Cmdr. Hal Gold, (516) 378-7566.

HUMMINBIRD/ARTHUR SMITH RING AWARDED AT 4TH ANNUAL ARTHUR SMITH BLUEFISH TOURNAMENT

Despite the imposing wind and rain, hundreds of the nation's top sport fishermen waited outside to register for the 4th Annual Arthur Smith Bluefish Tournament, held recently at the Guy Lombardo Marina in Freeport, NY, on Long Island. After two days of competitive angling, the awarding of the Humminbird/Arthur Smith Ring, other prizes and a composite tournament catch of 12,322 lbs. made it well worth the wait.

"That's a lot of fish," said Clay Smith, son of Arthur Smith and the tournament director. "We had 540 boat teams from 15 states and 2,334 anglers in all, which is excellent for such a young event."

The highlight of the two-day competition was the awarding of the Humminbird/Arthur Smith Ring to the Grand Prize Winner. Don Heinsch of the "Worm Burners" team was this year's recipient with an amazing 18.55 lb. bluefish. Roger Carter, manager of tournament activities for Humminbird Depth Sounders, presented the coveted 14K gold ring to Tom DiMauro, captain of the "Worm Burners," who then presented the ring to Heinsch.

Styled along the lines of other major championship rings, the Humminbird/Arthur Smith Ring features a diamond set in a black onyx base. Other members of the winning team received stainless steel rings. All four rings bear the recipient's name, the tournament title and date.

The tournament also featured a VIP competition, with celebrities and heads of corporate sponsors participating. John Palmer, newsman for the NBC Today Show, walked away with the winning 5 fish catch of 33.02 lbs. His prize was a Humminbird 4004D Deep Water depth sounder.

"We're proud of our association with Humminbird," Smith continued. "They've helped to make this tournament a success, and we look forward to an even better turnout next year."

Humminbird, the nation's leader in fish-finding technology, is the manufacturer of the legendary sonar depth sounding equipment.

SHELLFISH COOKING VIDEO AVAILABLE FROM SEA GRANT

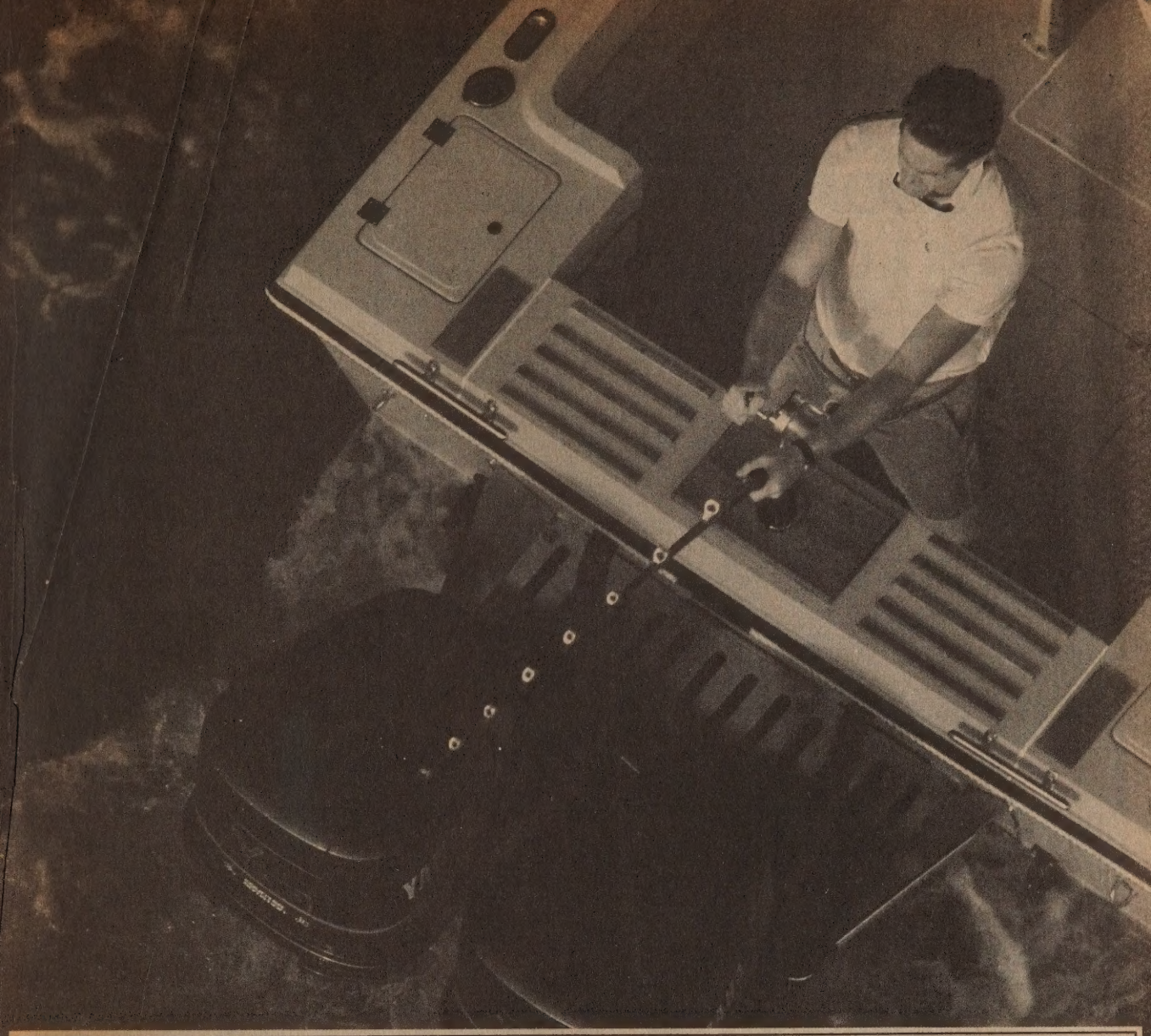
The microwave oven can be the perfect tool to cook fresh and frozen shellfish and the Delaware Sea Grant College Program has produced a videotape giving would-be shellfish chefs some basic tips.

The 22-minute video, entitled "Shellfish and Your Microwave: The Perfect Couple," introduces the audience to the delicious and convenient alternative of shellfish microwave cooking—from opening shellfish such as clams and oysters to defrosting and cooking entrees.

"I think microwaving is one of the best ways to prepare any type of seafood and particularly shellfish," says Doris Hicks, seafood technologist with the Delaware Sea Grant Marine Advisory Service. "Because the microwave oven cooks the tender flesh quickly and helps it retain its natural moisture, fish can be more tender and flavorful than when cooked by other methods."

But the video offers its viewers much more than just cooking tips. Hicks reviews how to eye and buy fresh shellfish; what to look for when buying frozen shellfish; how much shellfish to buy; and how it should be stored.

"The purpose of this venture, funded in part by the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Development Foundation, Inc., is to increase the public's awareness of just how easy shellfish is to prepare. Then, perhaps, more people will enjoy this healthy and low calorie Delaware resource more often,"



How to get more fishing space without buying more fishing boat.

When you're fighting a fish, it's better if you don't have to fight your way around an I/O box or splash well at the same time. That's why Armstrong outboard transom brackets are showing up on so many fishing boats.

With an Armstrong bracket, you can repower an inboard or I/O and use *all* of your deck for fishing. Or you can put an Armstrong bracket on a conventional outboard transom and turn what used to be the splash well into, for instance, a live well. Or a storage locker. Or whatever you want. Plus, an Armstrong bracket increases performance as much as 10% *and* reduces fuel consumption by as much as 12%. That means more time on the water, more time fishing.

With Armstrong, you get a choice of gleaming stainless steel, or black or white aluminum. You can also get a variety of convenient swim/service platforms. And a variety of models handling up to 300 hp.

The Armstrong bracket. It will make your boat a more productive place to catch fish. For a complete brochure or the name of the dealer nearest you, contact: Armstrong Marine, Inc., 2845 S.E. Monroe St., Stuart, FL 34997. Phone (305) 286-7204.

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Expect a lot.™

Yamaha's Counter-Rotating Outboards help eliminate arm-tiring torque. Available in 150 hp or 200 hp models featuring Precision Blend Oil Injection. And Yamaha includes its Two-Year Limited Warranty.

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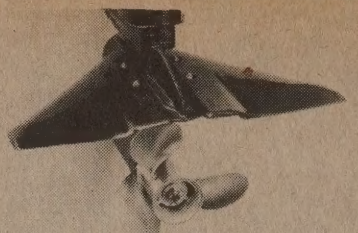

Outboard & Outdrive

HYDROFOIL

Lifts Like An Airplane Wing

PLANE OFF QUICKER & STAY ON PLANE AT A LOWER R.P.M. — Allows all boats to carry more weight in the stern while reducing engine wear and tear. Under powered? Get over the hump and onto plane! Dual Engines and/or Engine Brackets? Run level at low speeds!

ELIMINATES BOW RISE, POUNDING & PORPOISING — Come out of the hole quick and level, never losing sight of the horizon. Lets you cut through chop and swells with increased smoothness and speed. The stern will not "dig in" when pulling out skiers, ELIMINATES CAVITATION!

INCREASES STABILITY, MORE EFFICIENT THAN TRIM TABS — Trim Tabs deflect water creating drag and wasting fuel. The Doel-Fin slices through water improving directional control and stability while allowing a lower power setting for the same M.P.H.

SKEPTICAL? — 100% SATISFACTION GUARANTEED — Absolutely pays for itself in Fuel savings, unbreakable and easily installed, four models to fit any outboard or outdrive. Outboards under 30hp. $59.95, over 30hp. and I/O,s $67.95, Volvo 280,290 $107.95. NYS residents add 8% tax.

ANSWER
VINCENT P. BOGOTA NJ. 7/21/87
22' WALKAROUND 175hp MARINER
"I CAN TRIM THE ENGINE BETTER, I GET A SMOOTHER RIDE, AND THERE'S NO MORE POUNDING. I RECOMMEND THE DOEL-FIN."

AQUASPORT
JOE C. MINEOLA NY. 6/18/87
22' CENTER CONSOLE 115hp SUZUKI
"THE DOEL-FIN WORKS. THE BOAT RIDES NOTICIBLY HIGHER IN THE WATER, AT 4000 RPM I'M GOING FASTER AND THE ENGINE DOESN'T SOUND AS IF ITS WORKING AS HARD AS BEFORE."

BAJA
PETE L. WESTCHESTER PA. 8/4/87
FORCE 200 300hp MERC I/O
"THESE THINGS WORK GREAT. I CAN RUN WITH EVERYONE IN THE BACK AND GET ON PLANE WITH NO PROBLEM. THE BOAT TRIMS OUT REAL NICE PLUS I'M GOING FASTER THAN EVER. WHEN I HAVE 2 PEOPLE IN THE BOAT IT PLANES OUT SO FAST ITS ALMOST UNBELIEVABLE. THE DOEL-FINS ARE A GREAT INVESTMENT, I DON'T USE MY TRIM TABS ANYMORE."

BAYLINER
JAN Z. HOLYOKE MA. 7/20/87
23' SANTIAGO 198hp. MERC I/O
"IT MADE A BIG DIFFERENCE. WITH FUEL, BUTTERFISH, ICE AND 3 OR 4 PEOPLE ON BOARD I HAD TO MOVE EVERYONE TO THE BOW, THE BOAT REALLY HAD TO STRAIN TO GET ON PLANE. NOW GETTING ON PLANE IS NO PROBLEM, THE MOTOR IS NOT WORKING AS HARD, THE BOW STAYS DOWN AND THE BOAT IS MUCH MORE STABLE AT LOW SPEED. THE DOEL-FIN WORKED BETTER THAN I EVER EXPECTED. IT IS MORE THAN WORTH THE MONEY!"

BOSTON WHALER
JACQUES W. STAMFORD CT. 7/20/87
17' CENTER CONSOLE 60hp JOHNSON
"THE DOEL-FIN WORKED LIKE A CHAMP. I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT DID EVERYTHING YOU PROMISED AND ON TOP OF IT THE BOAT RAN FASTER. IT'S WELL WORTH THE INVESTMENT."

CHRIS CRAFT
RALPH S. NEW YORK NY. 7/21/87
24' SCORPION 260hp MERC I/O
"I LIKE IT. THE BOAT DOESN'T BOW STEER IN A FAST TURN, I CAN HAVE LOTS OF PEOPLE IN THE BACK AND STILL PULL A SKIER WITH NO PROBLEM. I DON'T USE THE HYDRAULIC TRIM TABS ANYMORE. THE PERFORMANCE OF THE BOAT IS MUCH BETTER WITH THE DOEL-FIN, I RECOMMEND IT!"

AND ON AND ON AND ON, HUNDREDS OF NEWLY SATISFIED CUSTOMERS WEEKLY.

CLASSIC
JOHN C. CORAM NY. 7/22/87
25' CABIN CRUISER 260hp MERC I/O
"THE DOEL-FIN WORKS VERY NICELY. THE BOAT PLANES OFF FASTER, I PICK UP ABOUT 4 M.P.H AT 3400 RPM AND I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT, BUT I CAN STAY ON PLANE DOWN TO 1900 RPM. I CAN SEE WHERE I'M GOING WITHOUT STANDING ON MY TIP TOES AND THE BOAT DOESN'T "BUCK" THE SWELLS ANYMORE."

COLUMBIAN
JEFF B. SHELTER ISL. NY. 8/3/87
22' CUDDY CABIN 200hp EVINRUDE
"THEY DO EVERYTHING YOU CLAIMED. I'M ON PLANE AT 3000 RPM vs. 4200 BEFORE, I RUN FASTER AND SMOOTHER IN A ROUGH SWELL, I CAN SIT IN MY CHAIR AND SEE WHERE I'M GOING THE WHOLE TIME, YOU'VE GOT MY VOTE ON THEM. ALSO MY ENGINE ISN'T LABORING, I'VE PICKED UP 300 RPM ON THE TOP AND I HARDLY TOUCH THE TRIM. I'M VERY PLEASED WITH THE DOEL-FIN, EVERYONE WITH A BOAT SHOULD OWN THEM."

IMPERIAL
PAUL M. WEBSTER MA. 8/3/87
20' W/GILL BRCKTS. 140hp EVINRUDE
"THE DOEL-FIN IS PHENOMINAL. I'M PLANNING AT 2700 vs. 4200 RPM BEFORE. I'M SAVING LOTS OF FUEL. IT KEEPS THE BOW DOWN, LETTING ME RUN FASTER THAN EVER THROUGH BIGGER SEAS THAN EVER WITH NO POUNDING. I WAS SKEPTICAL, NOW I'M A BELIEVER. DOLLAR FOR DOLLAR THEIR THE BEST INVESTMENT I EVER MADE."

SEA RAY
LEO P. CHICOPEE MA. 7/20/87
21' MONACO 228hp MERC I/O
"THE DOEL-FIN DOES A GOOD JOB. I PLANE RIGHT OFF NOW AND I CAN PULL TO 4500 RPM VS. 4000 MAX BEFORE. I'M VERY PLEASED, I RECOMMEND THE PRODUCT VERY HIGHLY."

SPORTSCRAFT
RICHARD H. SOUND BEACH NY. 8/2/87
32' CABIN CRUISER TWIN 155hp OMC
"THE DOEL-FINS WORK VERY NICE. I COULDN'T PUT ON TRIM TABS BECAUSE OF THE HULL DESIGN AND THE TWIN OUTDRIVES, THIS SOLVES THE PROBLEM AND THEY TOOK LESS THAN A HALF HOUR TO INSTALL. THE BOAT GETS ON PLANE MUCH FASTER, PLUS I CAN RUN DOWN TO 2800 RPM vs. 3400 BEFORE."

TAHITI
FRANK T. ELWOOD NY. 8/2/87
18' CLOSED BOW 235hp EVINRUDE
"THE BOAT COMES ON PLANE VERY SMOOTHLY, NO MORE WAITING FOR IT TO HIT THE POWERBAND. THE BOAT NOW ACCELERATES WITH A CHOP PROP AS FAST AS IT USED TO WITH A SKI PROP, IN A WHIP TURN THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO CAVITATION. THE DOEL-FIN IS AMAZING, YOU CAN'T GET ANYMORE THAN THIS FOR YOUR MONEY."

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Hicks says.

VHS and Beta copies of the video are for sale at $25 each. U-Matic copies are available at $40. The video also may be rented for up to seven days for $5. Contact the University of Delaware Marine Communications Office, 196 S. College Ave., Newark, DE 19716, (302) 451-8083; or the Delaware Sea Grant Marine Advisory Service, 700 Pilottown Rd., Lewes, DE 19958; (302) 645-4346.

SAFETY BOATING SKILLS AND SEAMANSHIP COURSE

A six-week Safe Boating Skills and Seamanship Course, offered by the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, will start on Monday, October 19th, at 8PM.

The course will be presented by Flotilla 19-02 in the First Presbyterian Church, Smithtown, Room 30. There is no fee, except for textbook which is available at the time of registration.

For further information, call Dave Dubois, 265-5483, after 5PM.

ANGLERS TAKE AIM AT IGFA 5, 10, 15 and 20 TO 1 CLUBS

Anglers worldwide are accepting the challenge of trying to qualify for the International Game Fish Association's 5, 10, 15 and 20 to 1 Clubs. In just four years since the program was established to give special recognition to catches where the weight of the fish far exceeds the breaking strength of the line used, membership in the exclusive clubs has reached 396. A total of 106 anglers qualified during 1986.

In addition 29 big game fishermen documented catches weighing more than 1,000 lbs., thereby earning a place in the Thousand Pound Club last year to increase this club to 110 members since it started in 1985. All special club members receive a certificate, an embroidered jacket emblem, and a pin, each denoting the appropriate club category.

IGFA reminds anglers that applications will be accepted for catches weighing 10 lb. (4.5 kg) or more, providing the species can be positively identified from the data and photographs submitted. Catches made in the past will be considered if reputable data can be submitted to substantiate the breaking strength of the line. All previous IGFA record holders are eligible.

Catches must be made according to IGFA World Record and Fishing Contest Application form, furnishing the same information that is required for a world record claim.

All entries shall be accompanied by a registration fee of U.S. $25 to help cover the costs of processing the application, awarded items and other costs incurred in establishing and maintaining the award program. If an entry is not approved, the fee will be refunded.

If the current World Record and Fishing Contest Application form is used, the angler should designate on the form the club for which he or she

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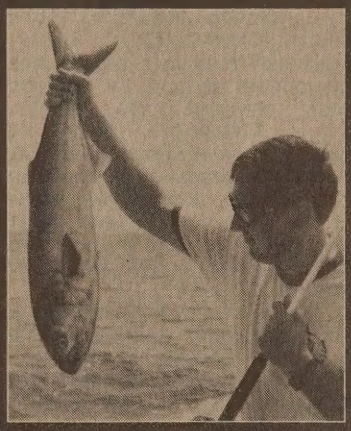

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is applying. Additional entry forms are available from IGFA, 3000 East Las Olas Boulevard, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316 USA.

BILLFISH HEARINGS

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council will hold a series of public hearings and provide a comment period to solicit public input into the proposed Billfish Fishery Management Plan. Various measures to conserve and manage the resource will be discussed.

The Billfish Fishery Management Plan was prepared jointly by the Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic, New England, Gulf and Caribbean Fishery Management Councils. It establishes a management regime for Atlantic billfishes throughout the Atlantic, Gulf and Caribbean Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) of the U.S. The species addressed by this plan are the sailfish, *Istiophorus platypterus*; the white marlin, *Tetrapterus albidus*; the blue marlin, *Makaira nigricans*; and the longbill spearfish, *Tetrapterus pfleugeri*.

The directed fishery for billfish in the U.S. is almost entirely recreational, using conventional rod and reel. There is a small scale, traditional handline troll fishery in the vicinity of Puerto Rico that has a small catch of billfishes. There is a small, regional harpoon fishery for white marlin off southern New England. In addition, longliners, both domestic and foreign, have an incidental catch of billfish.

Optimum yield in the billfish fishery is defined as the greatest number of billfish that can be caught by the recreational fishery in the EEZ considering the biological limitations of the stocks and the unavoidable incidental catches in other fisheries.

The objectives of the plan are to:

1. Maintain the highest availability of billfishes to the U.S. recreational fishery.

2. Optimize the social and economic benefits to the nation by reserving the billfish resource for its traditional use, which on the continental U.S. is almost entirely a recreational fishery. In the Caribbean, the fishery is both a recreational and small scale handline fishery where billfishes are used as food.

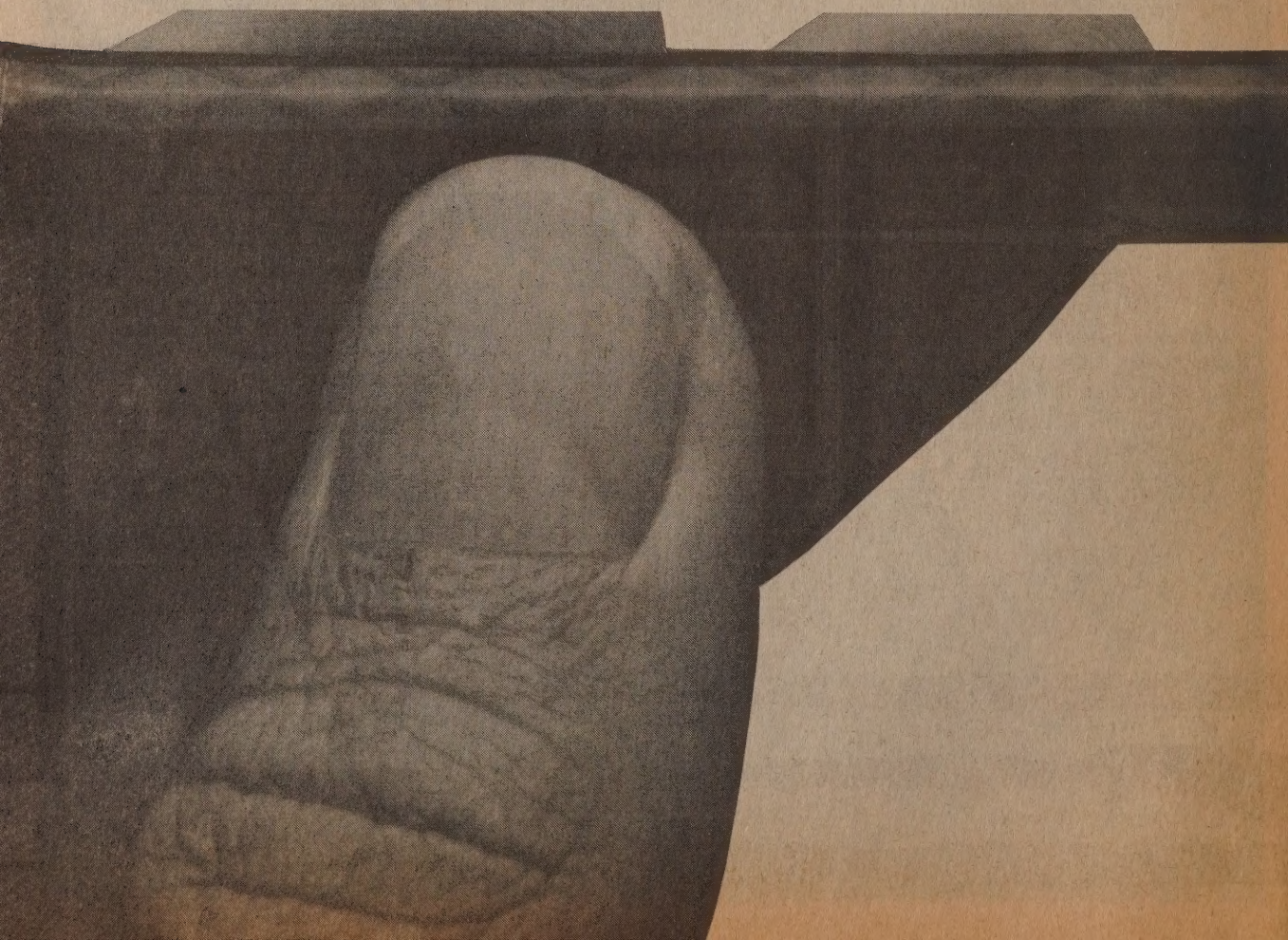
3. Increase understanding of the condition of the billfish stocks and the billfish fishery.

On the basis of data presented in the plan and in the Source Document, it is concluded that the greatest overall benefit to the nation will result from reserving, to the extent possible, billfish occurring in the EEZ, for the U.S. recreational fishery. Consquently, only traditional recreational fishing gear; i.e., rod and reel, may be used in a directed fishery for billfishes in the Atlantic, Gulf and Caribbean EEZs.

To ensure that a commercial market for billfishes does not develop, thus thwarting the objectives of this plan, the sale of all species of billfishes in the management unit is prohibited with the exception of the small by-catch of the small scale handline fishery in Puerto Rico. This measure applies to imports as well as billfishes caught by domestic vessels fishing outside the EEZ.

The U.S. recreational fishery currently releases approximately 50 percent of its catch. However, to ensure that most billfishes are released so that they may remain available to the recreational fishery, minimum size limits are imposed for each species (except spearfish whose rarity in the fishery makes this unnecessary). These size limits are 30 pounds for sailfish, 50 pounds for white marlin and 200 pounds for blue marlin and are based on reducing angler retention beyond its present level by an additional 30 percent, 50 percent and 50 percent, respectively. This measure will allow competitive fishing tournaments to continue while still significantly reducing this source of billfish mortality.

To ensure that the maximum number of billfishes are made available to the recreational fishery, retention of billfishes by commercial longline and drift net (gill or entanglement net) vessels is prohibited. All billfishes caught by domestic longliners must be released by cutting the line near the hook without



removing the fish from the water.

The dates, time and location of the public hearings are scheduled as follows:

October 15th: 7PM, South Wall Fire Co., Route 34 and Atlantic Avenue, Wall Township, New Jersey.

October 20th: 7PM, Holiday Inn, 3845 Veterans Memorial Highway, Ronkonkoma, New York.

Individuals and organizations may comment in writing to the Council if they are unable to attend the hearings. The public comment period will close November 22, 1987. All written comments should be addressed to John C. Bryson, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Room 2115 Federal Building, 300 South New Street, Dover, DE 19901-6790.

For further information contact: John C. Bryson, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Room 2115 Federal Building, 300 South New Street, Dover, DE 19901-6790, (302) 674-2331; or Robert K. Mahood, Executive Director, South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, One Southpark Circle, Suite 306, Charleston, SC 29407-4699; (803) 571-4366.

NEW RECORD ROD, REEL AND LURE PRICES

World and U.S. record prices were paid as tackle collectors and anglers spent an unprecedented $276,470 at the Richard W. Oliver Third Annual Antique and Classic Fishing Tackle Auction in Kennebunk, Maine.

A Haskell Minnow established a new world record price for a lure whe it sold for $9,240 (all prices quoted include a 10 percent buyer's premium charged by the Oliver Gallery). The new record price eclipsed the former $5,500 record paid for an 1980's Heddon Frog at the 1985 Oliver Tackle Auction.

The silver plated copper Haskell Minnow, with its 1958 patent marking, was made by Riley Haskell (1827-1882) a Painesville, Ohio gunsmith. The astronomical price is attributed to its antiquity and scarcity. Only 6 or 7 Haskells are known to exist. Many lure collectors are astonished to find a metal lure, rather than one of wood, having the world record price distinction.

Leading the wooden lure prices at $2,420 was a handmade brook trout plug by Tom Schroeder. Other lures eliciting high collector prices included a rubber Mills Hopatcong Perch $770, Decker Wooden Spinner Bait, $880; Winchester Multi-Wobbler, $495; Nixon Aristocrat No. 3, $850; Pontiac Radium Minnow in box, $660; and a Lou Rhead Frog established a record fly rod lure price of $660.

Strong Heddon plug prices were led by a Moonlight Radiant with old overpaint, $990, and a rare 5-hook Deep Diving Wiggler, $990. A South Bend Truck-Oreno in rare "Butterfly" finish brought $770.

Strong demand for fly fishing tackle signaled a move to higher price levels for rods and reels, breaking the imaginary $3,000 auction price barrier that had existed. A new auction record price for an American reel was established when a B.F. Meek & Sons Model 44 Trout Reel of early "flatback" design, in original box with guarantee papers, sold for $6,600. The former record holder was a Kosmic Model 925 Trout Reel sold at the 1986 Oliver Tackle Auction for $2,970.

High prices were paid for quality American fly reels such as a Kosmic Model 926, $2,860; H.L. Leonard Trout reel with 1877 patent marking, $2,530; Thos. J. Conroy "Wells" reel, $1,870; 1874 patent Orvis reel in original walnut box, $1,870; Billinghurst "Birdcage" reel, $1,045; and Edward Vom Hofe 504 "Tobique" Salmon Reel in 2/0 size, $900. Julius Vom Hofe trout reels sold for between $100 and $600 and an early B.C. Milam bait casting reel brought $1,210.

A world auction record price for a rod was set by the $3,575 sale of a Jim Payne Model 202 fly rod with scarce "acorn" butt cap. Rod prices at all quality levels were strong and individual maker record prices were established, such as the $2,145 cost of a Leonard "Hunt" model 49DF.

The 1,000 item 1987 Oliver Tackle Auction Catalog, with post auction price key is available for $15 from the Richard W. Oliver Gallery, PO Box 337, Kennebunk, ME 04043.

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Boats For Anglers

GULF CRAFT 24

by Skip Fleet

There's no question that the Gulf Craft 24 is a good looking boat. One glance will tell you that. The beige-colored epoxy finish belies the fact that this is a boat completely built of marine aluminum alloy. It is this unique construction that sets the Gulf Crafg 24 apart from other fishing machines in the same size bracket.

According to the manufacturer the boat is "built to last forever" and the Gulf Craft 24 is not your run of the mill aluminum boat. It is fabricated entirely of welded 3/16 inch marine aluminum alloy. As a result, there is nothing to work loose, come unglued, unscrewed, etc.

It is also unsinkable thanks to fully foamed-in polyurethane flotation. While the initial investment may be somewhat more than it would be for a comparably sized wood or fiberglass boat, this virtual indestructability makes the Gulf Craft less expensive in the long run.

You should be able to pass it along to your grandchildren, unless you figure out a way to "take it with you."

This hull is a true deep vee, tapering to an 18 degree deadrise at the transom. It weighs in a just a bit more than approximately 3,100 pounds.

The boat I had a chance to drive was a center console, but the Gulf Craft 24 comes in two other configurations as well. There's a dual console version and a walkaround cuddy cabin model. The hulls are identical no matter which setup you prefer. They have a centerline length of 24 feet, an easily trailerable 8 foot beam, and a draft of 15 inches.

Single and twin outboard power are available in either the standard cut-out transom configuration or the newer bracket version. Shaft lengths are 25 inches for both options. Maximum horsepower for the single engine installation is 235 hp. Double that for twins. That's right, a possible 470 hp if you really want to get to the offshore tuna grounds, and back, in a hurry!

Kenport Marina had rigged the bracket version boat I tested with a single 200 hp Mercury engine. During an hour or so of sea trials in Block Island Sound, the dash-mounted speedometer confirmed that the Gulf Craft 24 is one quick boat. We topped out at 46 MPH. The folks at the factory report that they've hit 59 MPH with twin 150 hp outboards. Can you imagine the sort of numbers that might be possible with the maximum power rating? You could be the last boat to leave the dock in the morning and still be the first one to the tuna grounds.

The boat comes with features ranging from welded aluminum grab rails and bow rails to a foamed-in 180 gallon aluminum fuel tank. It also has hydraulic steering, four Lees flush-mounted rod holders, twin Pompanette helm seats, and all stainles steel hardware.

The welded aluminum console sports a tinted laminated glass windshield and includes an aft storage

compartment and an insulated seat/fishbox with overboard drain forward. Additionally, there are three below deck insulated fishboxes, all with overboard drails. Two of these are located forward and one is near the stern.

The self-bailing cockpit is 13 feet long. The raised, forward casting platform measures 6 feet. Mounting a fighting chair here would look to be a fairly simple task. All of the deck surfaces have a textured non-skid finish for safe footing.

A substantial number of extra cost options can be installed, including a console T-top, gunwale mounted Lees outriggers, a bow pulpit with stainless steel anchor roller and Bennett hydraulic trim tabs. You can also order our Gulf Craft 24 with casting platform cushions, a folding Bimini top, horn, compass, livewell pump, and more.

The boat is unquestionably fast, dry and stable. The only way to get the windshield wet would be to take the boat out in the rain. I tried to put some spray aboard during my test ride, but failed miserably.

There was a moderate 2 to 3 foot sea running outside the breakwaters that afternoon. My host, Bob Markin, the owner of Kenport Marina challenged me to beat their best time of under 18 minutes from the West Gap to Old Harbor on Block Island's eastern shore. Okay! I'm a little crazy, and I love going fast on the water. So with the throttle to the max, we blasted toward the island.

It was like driving one of those needle-nose ocean racing machines. Once I got the feel of the helm the speedometer was at 46 MPH for the entire run. And yes, even after slowing briefly to look at a small whale that popped its head out of the water to eyeball us, I did get us to Old Harbor in just under 18 minutes. I also never put so much as a drop of spray aboard.

Not only did we not get wet, the boat never slammed into a wave or jarred any of our fillings loose. The stern settled in first, and softly every time I catapulted us off a wave. Maintaining steerage and control was a "piece of cake" thanks to the responsive hydraulic steering.

Even at 46 MPH the ride was quiet enough to carry on a conversation at normal voice levels. No need to shout above the engine noise here.

Mounting the engine on the stern bracket certainly had a lot to do with both the ride and the minimal amount of noise. Fishermen are probably evenly divided on the pros and cons of these recent innovations, but there's no question that they have their advantages.

The Gulf Craft 24s are well worth a look. If construction, speed and a quality ride are all prerequisites for your next boat, then this one warrants your attention. And remember, the folks down in Louisiana boast that this boat is "built to last forever." They have a 5-year hull warranty.

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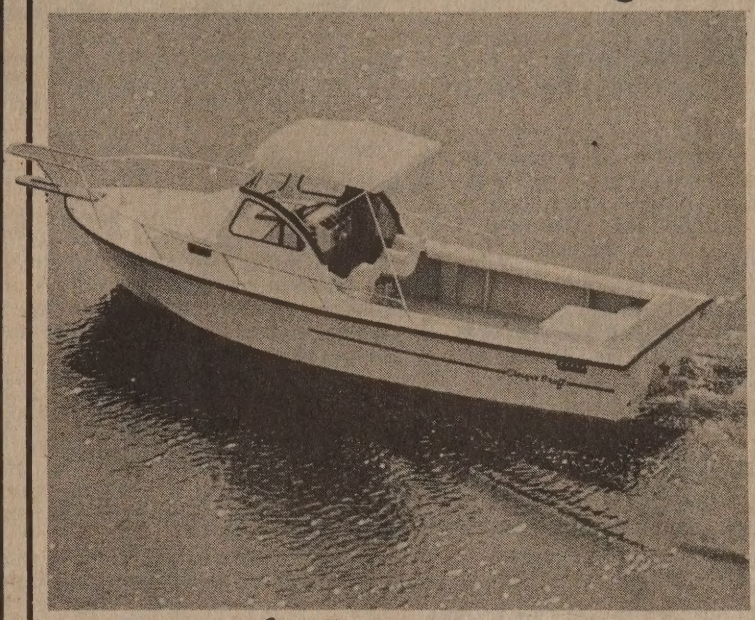

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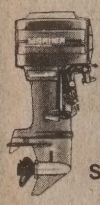
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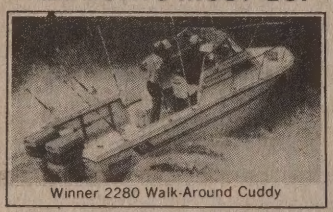
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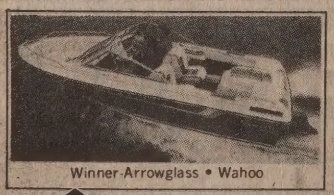
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Product Review

DYTEK INVERTER

by Pete Barrett

The long nighttime run to the Hudson Canyon left us all bleary-eyed and stiff. The damp morning air was chilly and the sun had not yet burst over the horizon with its comforting, warming rays. I zipped the windbreaker to my chin and shivered.

Just then Bob Lake popped his head out the cabin door. "How about a cup of hot coffee? A little something to get your eyes open and your heart pumping." Now that sounded like a great idea and he didn't have to ask twice for me to say "Yes."

In a few minutes he joined me, Jeff and Matt on deck with four mugs of steaming hot coffee fresh out of our newly installed microwave oven. It tasted great, cleared away the cobwebs and completely warmed us up. Donuts rounded out our 5AM canyon breakfast.

For us this was luxury and it was made possible by a big blue box from Dytek called a static inverter. It changes 12 volt battery electricity into 110 volt electrical juice allowing the use of microwave ovens, televisions, hair dryers, lights and other electrical gear that can only use 110 volt current.

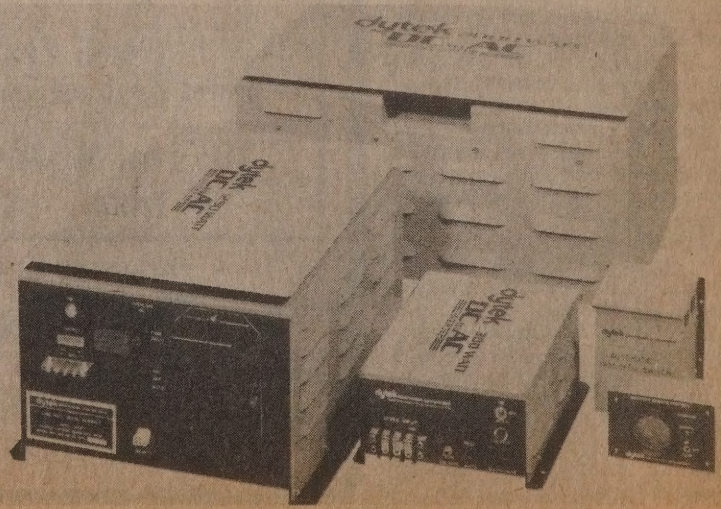
When a boat pulls out of its slip it loses its 110 volt shore power and must rely on battery power to supply the electricity to run lights, fans and electronics. Much of the gear we run on boats runs off the battery's 12 volt batteries, but other equipment, like microwaves can only be run off the 110 system. Larger sport fishing boats have been using generators for many years to supply the needed power and there's no doubt generators work well; but generators need fuel, they can be noisy, are fairly expensive and require maintenance.

I was looking for a "better" way when I moved into my 32 Topaz. I didn't want the drawbacks mentioned above and I also did not want to lose bilge space where the generator would have to be mounted. Like many shark and canyon fishermen I manage to fill up that under deck space with tackle and gear. The alternative came to me after visiting the International Marine Trades Show at Chicago last year. A conversation with the crew at the Dytek display convinced me to try an inverter.

Inverters are silent, need no fuel, take up little space and require virtually no maintenance. Now, I'm no electrical engineer so I don't claim to know how Dytek makes this "magic" happen but I do know that inverters are used on every space shuttle flight program, in solar applications, on commercial aircraft and on larger commercial fishing vessels. They are reliable with a proven track record of excellent performance.

The Dytek series of inverters come in sizes to handle 300 to 2500 watts and can be used on small outboard center console and cabin boats to large sportfishermen. They will operate sound systems, microwaves, power tools, refrigeration systems, computers and even air conditioning units!

When choosing an inverter for your



boat, check the wattage requirements of the appliances you plan to use. In my case, the primary item was the microwave with secondary requirements for a television, hair dryer and power tools. The maximum wattage was from the microwave, needing 850 watts to operate. To be on the safe side I chose a Dytek inverter with an extra margin of capability. The model 1250 suited my needs with room to spare.

At 8" by 12½" by 15¼", it was small and compact enough to be installed beneath a dinette seat so no bilge space was lost. It is silent and no one hears what it does. Best of all, it has performed remarkably well while running the microwave to heat up coffee mugs, small dinners and hot sandwiches.

My only problem was not the fault of the unit itself. The installer used a cable between the battery and the inverter that was too small a diameter (gauge), so a larger replacement cable was required. Check the instruction book packaged with the unit and you will not have this problem.

I altered the battery system to make maximum use of the inverter without danger of running down either of the dedicated engine batteries. A third battery was installed and wired to the inverter. An isolator prevents the inverter battery from drawing current from the two engine batteries, yet allows recharging of the inverter battery by the alternators while cruising or from the battery charger when connected to shore power.

Now that I have used the Dytek inverter, I'm surprised to find so many others using them, too. I've seen them in everything from 25 Makos to Grady Whites, Black Watches and Whalers. While they can be used on large vessels, they are definitely a big help on boats in the 22 to 29 foot size.

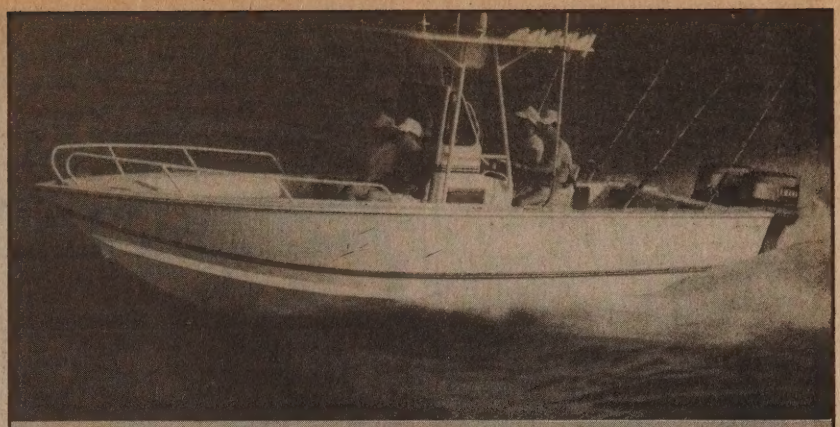
Dytek backs up their inverters with a 2-year warranty. The construction is high quality and the units can be run continuously on long range canyon trips. The housing is aluminum with an epoxy type paint that resists corrosion should an occasional splash get on the unit. The remote panel with "Auto On" feature makes the inverter trip to the On position as soon as any appliance is turned on.

I've been very pleased with the performance and reliability of my Dytek 1250. It works quietly with no attention required from me. Best of all, the hot coffee is appreciated on cold mornings.

Many boat manufacturers and marine sales people are not sure of the abilities and performance of inverters. If you need answers to your questions about inverters, call the folks at Dytek. They have a good crew able to handle any technical question you throw at them.

* * *

Manufactured by: Dytek Laboratories, Inc., Airport International Plaza, Bohemia, NY 11716; (516) 467-5553.



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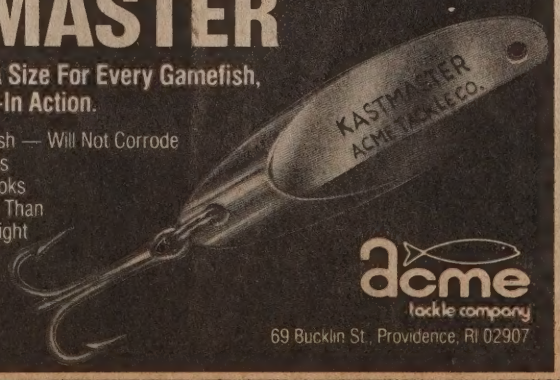

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The Tackle Doctor

by Ken Freel

Dear Doc,

As a subscriber to The Fisherman for many years, I am turning to you to obtain information regarding a tropical fish that I caught back in August. I've called every state department in my county and no one could help me identify this type of fish. The fish is oval in configuration with a silver-gray top and white belly with blue eyes. It weighed in at 2 lbs. Some people say it might be a triggerfish or sheepshead. In either case, is a triggerfish or sheepshead considered a good fish to eat? Sincerely,

Joseph Sardone.

Dear Joseph,

I commend you on the drawing which you included with your note because from it one can tell that the fish in question is defintiely not a sheepshead. The sheepshead looks very much like a freshwater sunfish, but with a much bigger mouth and decent sized teeth. The dorsal fin has the sharp spines like a sunfish and extends almost to the tail.

The sheepshead also has 5 or 6 distinct dark vertical bars on its side which cannot be missed. In some areas people refer to this fish as a "convict" fish because of these distinct bars.

The fish that you caught is most likely a triggerfish. Triggerfish have a small dorsal fin up near the front on the top of the back. This dorsal has three sharp spines. Another fin is found further along near the rear of the fish on the back, too. Your drawing shows these two distinct fins. The characteristics of this family of tilefish is a deep body with plate-like scales, a short gill opening and a mouth which is small but bears powerful jaws with close set projecting teeth. Triggerfish will take a hook readily if baited with crab, mollusks or worms. Fishermen should not be discouraged from eating this fish because of its coarse skin and odd appearance because, like the sheepshead, it is a good fish to eat. Thanks for the question!

* * *

Dear Doc,

I fish mostly along the inlet jetties for fish like tautog and flounder and would like to know which tide is best to fish these areas. Is it the incoming tide or the outgoing tide?

John Maletti.

Dear John,

There are so many factors governing when the fish will be biting best, but if I had my choice of whether to fish an incoming or outgoing tide off of the jetty rocks of an inlet, then the choice would be the outgoing. The reason for this is that outgoing tides "flush" the baitfish and small crustaceans out and force them to move. This puts most of the larger predatory fish into a feeding mood.

Incoming tides can also have the same effect, but since most are not as strong as outgoing currents, the effect is of a lesser degree. Try fishing both tides in your area and let me know how you make out. Good fishing!

* * *

Dear Doc,

I'm fairly new to freshwater fishing and like to do most of my fishing from the shoreline of small ponds and lakes. I see a lot of good size fish darting away from the secluded stretches of shoreline as I walk along the bank. I have waders and would like to try and catch some of these wary

bass and pickerel before they get out into deeper water.

Is there a technique that would help me "sneak" up on these fish and could you give me some hints that may enable me to catch more of these shoreline scrappers? Thanks for any help you can give me. *Jim Stadler.*

Dear Jim,

It can be exciting to see big or good sized fish scoot away from the shoreline as you make your way to a prime fishing area and there are plenty of ways you can go about hooking into these shoreline beauties if you have some patience. The first thing you can do is to walk along the shore on land until you see what looks like a potentially good spot. Then you can either cast from the shoreline or wade carefully out a few feet into the water.

Going into the water does not necessarily mean that you will spook all of the fish that are lying along the banks. Whether you cast from the shore or wade into the water, the cast will often determine how many fish that you'll be able to hook up with. Your first cast should be the shortest one with each cast being a little longer. The reason for this is that if you hook into a fish on the first cast, you are less likely to spook fish that may be only 10 to 15 feet beyond the spot where you are standing. However, if your first cast is a long one and you hook into a fish right away, then any other fish between you and the hooked fish will be off to the deeper waters fast.

Another point to consider, especially during the fall season when the water is usually very clear is the amount of splash you create with the lure. Smaller plugs and crankbaits often work better when fishing from the bank because they will not startle most fish with a heavy splash. Even when using a smaller size lure a long cast can make a big splash, another good reason to start out with short casts. Continue casting at a likely spot until you've reached all possible fish holding areas. If nothing hits, then you should try a different lure or bait or move to another spot. But, if you've seen fish darting out from the banks, then chances are that you'll connect with some of them if you use the shorter, then longer cast technique.

During the fall season, too, the use of live baits such as shiners or killies can be a big plus. Killies are the preferred bait since these fish will last longer in the bucket and on the hook. A long shanked No. 2 hollow point Mustad-Sproat hook works well for pickerel. The hook eye is bent so that you can snell the hook and the long shank makes it easier to get the hook back out of the pickerel's mouth.

For bass, the same style hook will work well in either a No. 2 or 4 size hook. Both species have big mouths, so you don't have to worry about the hook being too large for the fish. Also, a larger hook will help keep the bait down on the bottom at fish eye level.

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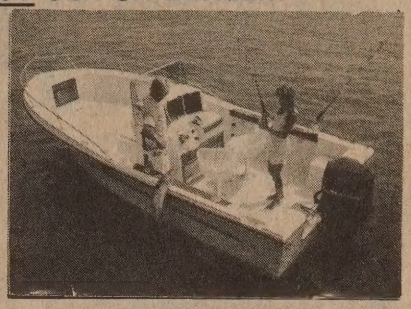

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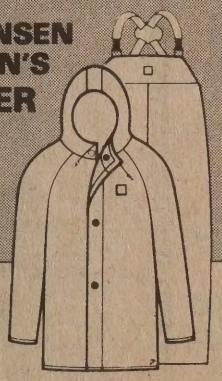

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Dock Lines

by Eric Burnley

Last week we discussed the preparation of your motor for winter storage. This week I would like to talk about your boat and how to get it ready for the long lay-up.

I know there are some folks who seldom, if ever, spend time cleaning up their boat. The idea that a clean ship is a happy ship has never occured to them. While a clean boat may not catch any more fish, it does make me happy and I suspect many of you feel the same way.

After I have serviced the motor and the boat is hauled out for the winter, I begin my cleaning from the bottom up. If you attack the bottom of your boat before the scum has a chance to set up, you will find the cleaning job is much easier.

You can use Sudbury Boat Soap Plus, Starbrite Hull Cleaner, Boat Armor Boat Bottom Cleaner or similar products from Boat Life, Boaters Choice and various other companies. Some of these products can cause irritation to the skin and should be applied while wearing rubber gloves and goggles. Check the warnings on the label before using any cleaner.

If you scrub the bottom clean before you store your boat, you will find it much easier to paint next spring. Bottom painting is not a pleasant job and the less sanding you have to do the quicker it will be finished.

After I am satisfied with the bottom, I concentrate on the hull. I wash it well and apply a coat of wax. This not only protects the hull over the winter but makes it easier and quicker to clean and wax in the spring.

This is a good time to get any stains you may have accumulated out of the gel coat. There are several products that will remove most stains and these should be used before you apply the wax. I have some rust stains on my white hull that have successfully resisted every commercial product I have tried, including rubbing compound. These stains were on the hull when I bought it and I suspect they will be there when my kids inherit the boat.

Creosote and tar are common stains on boats, but the tar removers sold in stores sometimes fails to get them out to my satisfaction. If the tar stain is particularly difficult you may

want to try some acetone. I have used this stuff and it really does the job. You should only use it in a well ventilated area and on a surface that is cool and out of the direct sun. Acetone evaporates very fast, so be prepared to get it on and off in a hurry. Use only clean white rags and wear rubber gloves when working with this product.

The more common stains such as bluefish blood, mackerel scales, dried on squid strips and shark chum will come off with regular boat soap and some elbow grease. I suggest you take the time to look in places not normally hit with soap and water. I was surprised at the gunk that had accumulated under the wash boards, dash and seats of my boat.

This should be a very thorough cleaning of every part of the boat. You should fill in cracks or chips with the appropriate product to keep ice from forming over the winter and possibly causing more damage.

Once every part of the boat is completely cleaned apply a coat of wax to the fiberglass or metal surfaces. I remove the seats from my boat and store them inside. If you plan to keep the seats on your boat you should coat them with a vinyl protection spray.

The underside of the dash should be sprayed with WD-40, CRC, or other protective oil. This will keep the connection on your gauges from corroding over the winter.

Remove everything from the cabin or other storage areas including your batteries. If you leave your life preservers, ropes, foul weather gear or tackle on the boat, it will be subjected to mildew and rot. By storing such things inside you will extend their useful life and keep them smelling much better.

After the boat is thoroughly cleaned and waxed, it is time to put it under wraps. I use a big, blue plastic tarpaulin to cover my boat. You can also use canvas or have the boat covered by Pro-Tect-A-Boat or one of the other heat-shrink processes.

The tarp must be secured at every possible location and stretched tight so water and ice cannot collect in low pockets. The boat trailer must be on a level surface, but tilted back so any accumulated water will run off. Last year my trailer was tilted off to one side and I had water stains on the deck from a pool that collected over the winter.

Use cut-up pieces of old carpet or rubber mats to protect the tarp from sharp corners on windows, lights, fittings and other such protrusions. A hole in your tarp will defeat its purpose.

Finally, service your trailer. Remove all the lights and spray the sockets with a light oil. Service the wheels and bearing with waterproof grease. Some boaters remove the wheels and leave the trailer on blocks for the winter.

If you have properly serviced your boat, motor and trailer you should enjoy a trouble-free launch next spring.

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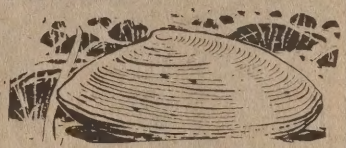

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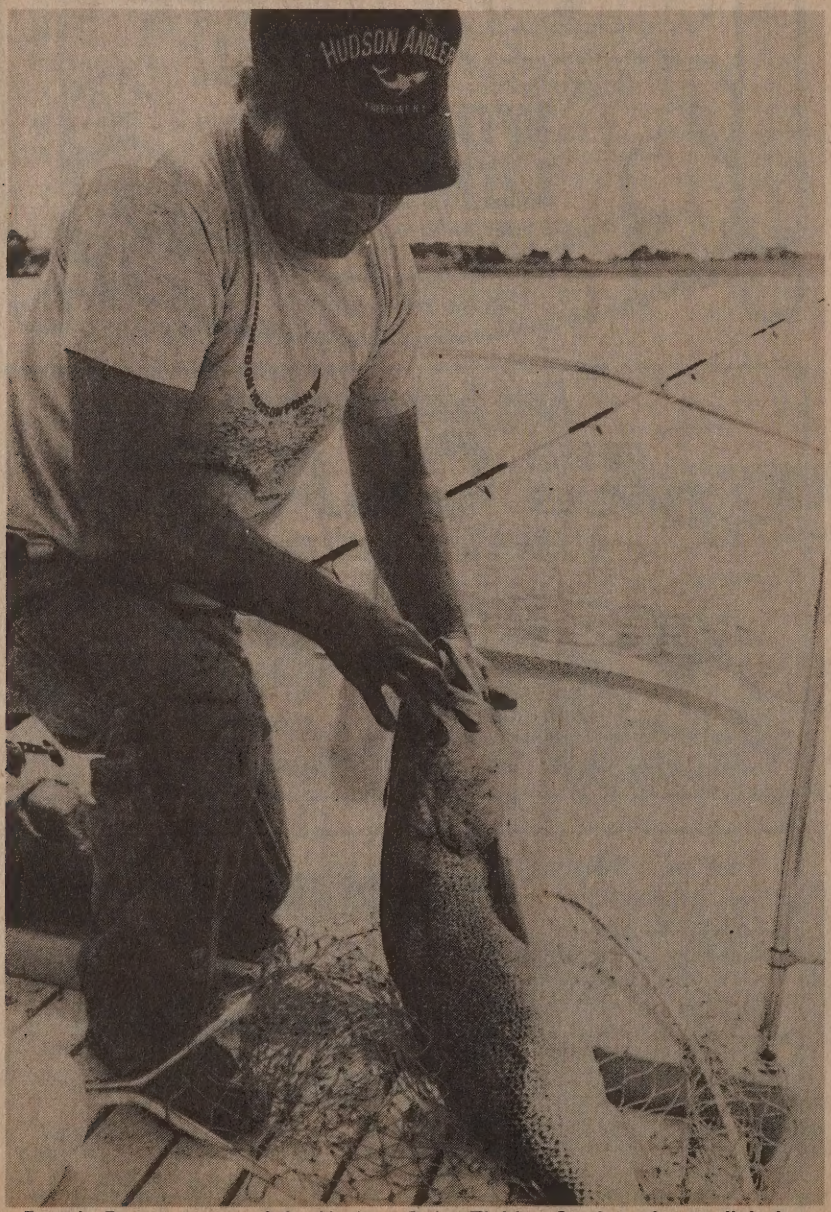
QUEST FOR A TROPHY:
LIVE - LINING LOGIC

by Fred Golofaro

If a trophy bass, blue or weak is on your agenda this fall, then there is no better way of achieving that goal than to brush up on the finer points of live-lining. It's ironic that this most deadly of all big fish techniques is also the most simple. Yet, the majority of boatmen continue to view the practice as some mystical art. That big fish like to eat smaller fish is one of the few absolutes of the fishing game and the fact of the matter is, that there is a greater margin of error in presentation when you have a live baitfish swimming around down below.



Ronnie Bauer, owner of the Hudson Point Fishing Station tries to dislodge the hook from the 15 pound weakfish he just caught.

The south shore bays and inlets are prime live-lining territory and offer the small boatmen an opportunity to tangle with the fish of a lifetime in relatively calm and protected waters.

On the other hand, the fish holding structure found in these waters is generally considered smaller than the structure found at Montauk, Plum Gut, The Sluiceway or The Race. You're also not likely to find the same volume of fish that the tips of both forks attract and what constitutes a crowd of boats in Fire Island Inlet would go unnoticed in many of the big water spots.

Structure is the key to locating your live-lining hotspots. In the bays and inlets, uneven bottom formations such as a series of peaks and valleys which create rips on the surface constitute many of the favored fishing locations. A classic example of this structure is found along the south side of Fire Island Inlet in the vicinity of the Superintendent's house and the former site of the "old construction dock" to the west.

The locations of wrecks, even the smallest ones, and artificial reefs are also prime live-lining territory. One small piece of wreckage that used to be located in the swirling currents opposite the Sore Thumb surrendered five big cows to me one October day a number of years back. Three of those fish topped the 40 pound mark and several others (they must have been bigger) cut me off as I was unable to stop them from getting back into the wreckage.

One of my favorite live-lining haunts for big bass, weaks and even blues was the Kismet Reef. The structure provides abundant forage in the form of small blackfish, sea bass, porgies, bergalls, blowfish, etc., which create easy pickings for hungry game fish. Obviously, a quality recorder that will also reveal bottom hugging bass and weaks, is a valuable asset for any kind of structure fishing.

In the bait department, we've used live eels, bunker, herring, mackerel, blackfish, bergalls, flounder, porgies, snappers and squid to take fish from these waters. All have their moments, but a few can be depended upon to produce one species of fish or another on a consistent basis.

Live eels probably see the most use since they are readily available in many tackle shops and are kept alive with a minimum amount of effort.

"Snakes" are an excellent bait and all three game fish will readily gobble them. I like them for night work but they take a back seat for daytime fishing. The exception to this is late in the season (mid-October on) when they will occasionally produce well under the sun. A 6/0 short shank tuna hook pushed through the bottom of the eel's jaw and out one of the eye sockets makes a good presentaton.

One of my favorite daytime and nighttime baits is a small blackfish. Stripers and tiderunner weaks eat them like candy, they are easy to acquire and are one of the hardiest baitfish. Tog in the 6 to 8 inch size make prime baits, but I have had stripers pick up blacks weighing as much as a pound and a half. You'll do best, though, keeping to the smaller baits. A 3/0 treble or a 7/0 single Siwash hooked through the back just ahead of the dorsal works well.

Bunker are, of course, a preferred bait but are not always available when you want them. They also require a substantial live well system to keep them frisky where both eels and blacks do just fine in one of those large plastic live bait buckets that most people use to tote killies around in all summer long.

A good live bait system including the tank, fittings and pump is available from Caddy Company which advertises its product line regularly in the classified section of The Fisherman.

Bunker will take fish day or night but the edge goes to them between sunrise and sunset. Depending on the strength of the current and the speed of the drift, they can be hooked through the back ahead of the dorsal with a 3/0 treble or 7/0 Siwash or through the lower jaw and out one of the nostrils. The latter arrangement being best when you're "dragging" the baitfish along behind you on a fast drift. I think the former method provides a more natural presentation and will use it when fish are showing on the surface (rare) or when fishing atop relatively shallow structure near the change of tide.

Whichever bait you choose, a rod with the backbone to drift up to four ounces of lead plus your baitfish is called for. Graphite rods enable you to go with a lighter action yet provide the necessary backbone and sensitivity required for this fishing.

Thirty pound line will suffice for most situations, though I will add a four foot trace of 40 pound mono for my leader to cushion the abrasion of mussel beds and the like.

So, if that space you have reserved on the wall needs filling, and if quality rather than quantity is your game, then give live-lining a try. With a current one fish bag limit on stripers (33 inch or over please), you'll minimize the number of fish you handle and can easily release any fish you don't want. If your hook is not easily retrievable, simply cut your leader as close to the fish's mouth as possible and set her free.

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6 Seat Sideseam Inseam	34-39" 50½ 30-31		34-39" 49 28½-29½	38" 51½ 32	38" 49½ 30½
7 Seat Sideseam Inseam	35-40" 51½ 30½-31½		35-40" 50 29-30	39" 51½ 32½	39" 50 31
8 Seat Sideseam Inseam	36-41" 52½ 31-32		36-41" 51 29½-30½	40" 53½ 33	
9 Seat Sideseam Inseam	37-42" 54 32-33	37-42" 56 33½-34½	37-42" 52 30½-31½	41" 54½ 33½	
10 Seat Sideseam Inseam	38-43" 55¼ 33-34	38-43" 57¼ 34½-35½	38-43" 51½ 31-31½	42" 55½ 34	
11 Seat Sideseam Inseam	39-44" 55½ 33-34	39-44" 57½ 34½-35½			
12 Seat Sideseam Inseam	40-45" 56½ 33½-34½	40-45" 58½ 35-36			
13 Seat Sideseam Inseam	41-46" 57½ 34½-35½	41-46" 59½ 36-37			

* Measure widest part of seat snugly, *with wading clothes on.*
** Sideseam—from armpit to floor.
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WALKING THE PLANK FOR THE BIG THREE

by Vincent Badame

Not too long ago, this author wanted to rest his hard-fished surf and bridge spots and seek a change in angling atmosphere. Although my usual fishing areas were still producing fish, I started to feel as if I was only going through the motions of catching fish. To regain my fishing "itch," plus the appreciation of the sport, I visited various fishing piers last fall and sampled the fishing to be had from them. By the time I finished my first few weeks of nighttime pier-fishing duty, my old fishing drive quickly returned, and I now have a few new spots to fish from.

To fish from piers in summertime, a fisherman must enjoy the elbow-to-elbow camaraderie of other anglers—be they novice casters or seasoned vets. And since everybody chooses to fish atop piers in daylight or from sardine-packed party boats during summer, some pier fishermen opt to do their angling during less crowded times, namely on fall nights. It never fails that come Labor Day, the bulk of novice anglers, along with kids returning to school, leave plenty of open space on piers for studious pier fishermen (fondly referred to as "Plankster" by fellow peers) to go about their business. Although slow to catch on to pier fishing, I will be sampling this fishing more often. Especially since big blues, bass and weakfish can be caught at night from piers.

So to indulge my readers as to the finer points in pier fishing, the pier should have some deep water within casting range for fishermen seeking bass, weakfish or blues. A pier stretching across shallow water mud flats isn't an ideal platform for anglers to ply their sport. The pier that reaches close to a channel is more likely to be the better fish-producer. Also, when anglers find tidal rips off a pier's end, they've found "fishy waters" to cast to.

Before going into the full blown aspect of pier fishing, let me state that there are many piers that west enders can fish from. Some are well known, like Canarsie (on Jamaica Bay), the 69th Street Pier in Brooklyn, Stapleton Piers on Staten Island (the latter two span New York Harbor) Rye's Playland in Westchester County, Jones Beach's lot #10, and so forth. Other piers on Long Island may only be known to local fishermen with tight lips. Therefore, a few driving treks over yonder may locate more fishable piers. In addition, the few piers that may be partially open to fishermen at night, might be used as daytime boat docks, too. I suggest you seek permission from private dock owners before fishing off newly found piers. 'Nuff said!

On to the fishy aspects of nighttime pier fishing.

(Continued on next page.)

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A pier's end is the usual hotspot to fish from, so space is always at a premium. Thus anglers should use only one outfit when the pier is crowded. Besides, having another unattended extra outfit in the water while a hooked fish darts around could cause more line tangles than you'd wish to hassle over. Therefore, yours truly sticks to one outfit when fishing from a pier.

Two popular baits that hold up under heavy crab attack are mossbunker and live snappers. Mossbunker is just too difficult to keep alive, therefore, bunker is used as cut bait on a fish finder rig. Live snappers, which can be caught alongside the dock, are stored inside an extra-large killie cart and tied to the dock to be readily available when the angler needs another lively bait.

Using mossbunker as bait isn't too hard to do. Just simply remove all bunker scales (this helps to keep scales off hook's point) and slice bunker into three inch wide chunks (remove head and tail fin). Anglers can cut bunker into fillet strips, but crabs make quick meals of it and a bunker chunk can be cast easier.

Because you can never tell when Mr. Bluefish will come along and inhale your bunker bait, the hook (Mustad #3406 in 7/0 is author's selection) should have 12 inches of black nylon coated wire of 30 pound test attached to it. Blues are able to cut through mono leader material like a knife through butter.

And remember: dull hooks catch fewer fish. So, sharpen your hook's point to catch more fish (even on new hooks!).

To fish bunker chunks off a pier, attach 12 inches of black 30 pound test braided wire to 7/0 hook via a Crawford Knot. Use an albright Knot to connect 20 inches of 50 pound leader material to wire. Following this, tie a Surgeon's loop at the free end of your leader material, to which you clip on your snap.

A word about the Crawford and Albright Knots.

As you may have noted in the above rigging info, I prefer not to crimp the black nylon coated braided wire to the hook eye. Too much crimpling-plier pressure could weaken light test braided wire and a strong fish may snap the wire even under lighter drag setting.

The Crawford Knot is very similar to a Hangman's Noose, for as the fish's weight pulls harder on your braided wire the knot becomes even tighter without its strength diminished. As long as braided wire is wrapped five turns, any knot slippage will be eliminated.

Also, to stop from curling your braided wire, tightly draw up the Crawford Knot up your wire leader and slide the knot down to hook (push knot along wire to hook eye with fingers—not by tugging on wire!). Following this, pull evenly on the wire with one hand while holding hook in other hand to tighten up knot at hook eye. Finish by trimming knot's loose end down to 1/8 inch.

Tying the Albright Knot isn't hard to master. Always remember that the braided wire's "free end" (not attached to hook) is looped. Your leader material's end is threaded through loop—then wrapped around the wire loop 6 times (back toward where loop curves round). Once again, the leader material's end is passed back through the wire's loop. Now, while pulling on leader material's end (at Albright Knot) with one hand and with hook attached to something, grab and pull evenly on leader material's (Surgeon's Loop) end to firmly draw together the Albright Knot. When the knot is tightened, it should look similar to a tiny human fist. Any gaps or loops in your Albright? If so, re-do it.

Back to pier fishing.

A live snapper is a favorite forage for weakfish, bass and even its own adult kind. The wire leadered hook mentioned previously is fine to fish live snapper on. But a fish finder rig setup doesn't allow a snapper to appear in its natural state, which is swimming near the surface. To use a live snapper bait, a 2 (or 3) ounce drail sinker is attached between your hook's leader line. A large enough float (I like the plain cork types) is placed 4 feet above the drail weight so sinker plus snapper stays off bottom.

Use a brass-eyed drail weight, because those chromed bead chain-type drail weights sometimes attract the chomping attention of bluefish and you can say goodbye to everything below the drail as a blue swallows your shiny drail sinker.

Taking a lively 5 to 8 inch snapper out of your killie cart, push your 7/0 hook through the snapper's back—just in front of the dorsal fin. Don't penetrate the snapper's backbone when attaching hook as this will leave you with a dead snapper bait. With the tide moving, gently lower hooked snapper to the water and keep letting out line. What you want to accomplish is have the bait cover as much water away from the pier to locate snapper hungry game fish. Every 10 yards, or so, just stop letting line out and wait until the snapper baited rig's float tightens your line to once again release more line off the reel. If you do not get a yank after 60 to 70 yards, slowly retrieve rig and check to see if snapper is still kicking. Repeat whole process again.

When your snapper is inhaled by a game fish, your line will be pulled faster off your reel than with the tide. Let the fish swim off with your bait until a count of 10 is reached. Lock your reel and wait until the fish pulls your line taut before setting the hook. In addition, sometimes just a little longer count (than 10) when weakfish are up and about may guarantee you a better hook-up when a game fish grabs the live snapper.

Employing plugs to fish off piers isn't done regularly as either piers are too crowded for plugging, or, in most

cases, the area around piers are snag infested and hang-up more plugs than the average fisherman can afford. If you're still set on using plugs from piers, surface swimmers like Bombers and Rebels that match snapper or mullet (in color and size) do catch a few fish for pier anglers at dusk and pre-dawn hours.

Since space is limited on most piers, rods over 8 feet are cumbersome. Pier pilings play host to baitfish and game fish come close seeking meals at night. The need for casting far from piers isn't necessary, therefore 7 to 8 foot conventional (or spin) medium heavy outfits are best suited. Also, I'd advise pier fishermen to fill their reels with an abrasion resistant, 20 pound monofilament. Pilings quickly fray mono.

Another suggestion that comes out of my past pier experiences of landing game fish is do not horse a green fish to pier side! Larger fish tend to panic upon sight of the pier and try to dive into the pier's pilings to snap your line. Play your fish out—away from the pier and then pump fish slowly in to pier to be landed.

One item a pier fisherman needs is a long handled gaff with extension poles to reach the water. On some higher piers, a bridge gaff with a sturdy rope attached to lift fish out of the water onto the pier works well. Without either of the above, a pier fisherman has little chance of landing large game fish. Also, when gaffing your fish, try for a head shot. This way, the gaffed fish can't turn its body and get leverage to pull the gaff out of your hand, or tear free of it.

Other pier fishing equipment that is optional, but could make your outing more comfortable: a chair, flashlight for gaffing purposes, long-nosed pliers to unhook toothy weakfish and blues, snacks and beverages. Even a radio is a nice touch to listen to ball games while fishing is slow.

With the basics of pier fishing covered, let me share two trade secrets of platform fishing with you.

Weakfish, large stripers, too, love soft shell crab as much as humans. When weakfish put on the fussy act by refusing live snapper and bunker, try catching a soft shell blue claw off the pier's pilings by using a weighted treble hook as a crab snatcher. Once you have crab, cut it in half (quarter it, if large) and place it on hook with black sewing thread wrapped around crab bait and hook to keep it on. Fish your crab bait on a fish finder rig (mentioned earlier) and hold your outfit. As soon as you feel a hit, strike back, or say goodbye to crab bait and the fish that just ate it.

The other trick of catching fish from a pier is chumming with leftover bunker heads, fins, and guts off the pier to have chum drift pass where your baited rig lies. In addition, any soft bunker pieces and washed out baits are diced and dropped behind the chum slick to add spice.

Best times to fish off piers seems to be at night on incoming water and on the first two hours of the ebb during the fall. It's not unusual to catch fish near low tide especially from mid-October on. Game fish are moving around more then and feed heavily before migrating. Therefore, take note of when fish show up and remember those details for future use.

Any time mossbunker show up at your pier, it can't hurt to snag a bunker with a wired treble hook to liveline it. Over-size game fish tend to ride herd on schooling mossbunker at night and livelining a treble hooked bunker among the baitfish can add some impressive bass, weaks, or monster sized blues onto your season's catch. Just as with snapper baiting, let fish swim off with snagged bunker, count up to 20 and set your hook hard, twice.

So there you are. The plain and simple truth about nighttime pier fishing for the Big Three. When you're bored with your usual fishing endeavors and just too tired to trek through sandy shorelines, or when fishing in your hideaways slows, give a close-to-home pier a few tries on fall nights.

You could be just as surprised by your results when fishing off a plank as I was.

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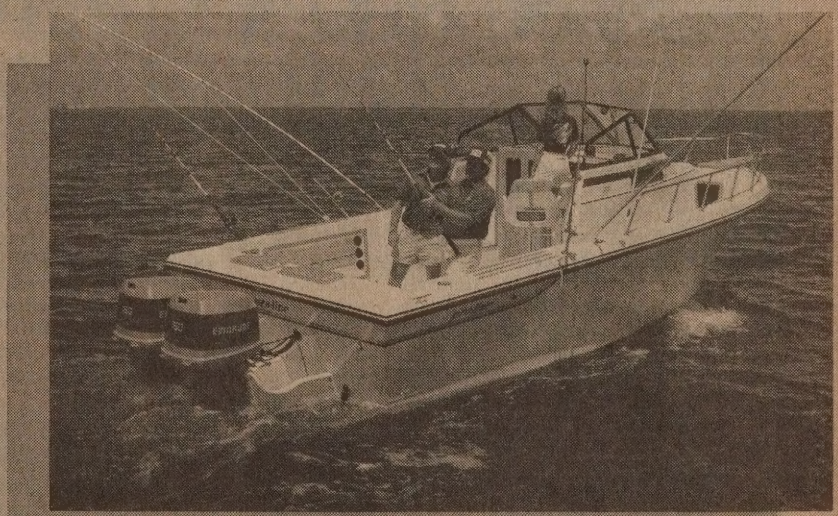

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AN AUTUMN GEM

by William Stamatis

There are days when everything seems to go your way. Long Island Sound was balmy on that October morning and there were hardly any boats in sight. Terns and gulls were diving and screeching a hundred yards down tide and fish were crashing the surface. Before my diamond jig could reach the bottom, I felt the telltale bump of a hit before the hook-up. When I flipped the reel into gear and took two turns on the handle, the rod arched and my arm strained as the bluefish fought with the violence of a mugger trying to run off with his prize.

It wasn't long before I had company. Two center console rigs came bearing down on the school of fish, having sighted the diving birds. Fortunately, these were experienced fishermen and they didn't sound the feeding fish by plowing through the school. Soon they were into fish, too.

Diamond jigging is one of the most exciting and effective ways to catch bluefish and striped bass that I can think of. It is also the simplest. The fact that the fish are in a feeding frenzy is what makes this both exciting and easy. You lower a chrome jig to the bottom and start reeling in as soon as it hits the bottom. If you are over these feeding game fish, you will almost certainly catch some.

It sounds simple and it is! But (you knew it was coming), as in all things there are some tricks developed over the years that definitely make a difference. For instance, I never fish a diamond jig without a teaser or dropper hook above it. A teaser is not tied on so that you can always catch double-headers, but it is tied on to make the teaser seem like it is being pursued by the ravenous piece of chrome beneath it.

This is put together very easily. You need a diamond jig, a 4 foot length of 50 to 80 lb. leader, a #1 or 1/0 three-way swivel and a small tube lure typically found on umbrella rigs. Cut about 16 inches of leader from the original length and tie one end with a clinch knot to the tube lure. Tie the other end to one ring of the three-way swivel. With the remaining length of leader, follow the same process with the diamond jig. The final ring of the three-way swivel is attached to your line. As you can see, the swivel helps the teaser stand out away from the line.

Most people spend a lot of time deciding what color they should use for the teaser. Don't bother! White, red or green will almost always work. However, if you see a guy consistently catching fish on a particular color, by all means change.

Obviously sturdy equipment is necessary. Spinning tackle doesn't perform that well here because you cannot maintain control of the line as

you are dropping the jig to the bottom. On Long Island you will see fishermen using reels ranging in size from the Penn 113 to those diminutive bait casting reels used on freshwater lakes. A good compromise is the Penn Jigmaster 505, or the new level wind Penn 320 GTI. These reels have fast retrieves and very good drag systems. Fill these reels with good quality mono in the 30 to 40 pound class and attach these reels to sturdy rods that are not soft at the tip and you have a good combination for Long Island waters.

After you have all this equipment together, there are a few more "tricks" to remember. Don't rely only on the simple straight retrieve from the bottom to the top. Change speeds! Most fishermen forget that under the marauding schools of bluefish are often slower weakfish and striped bass. Sometimes it pays to take 5 to 10 very slow turns of the handle when lifting the diamond from the bottom. Then speed up until you get to the surface. Another technique is to let the jig drag along the bottom and lift the rod tip. Repeat this process three or four times before you reel the lure to the surface.

Another wrinkle you can add to diamond jigging is counting. Since fish will feed at different depths it's important to know where these fish are. I do this by counting. I realized the importance of this a few years ago when an enormous army of blues invaded an area a mile and a half northeast of Horton's Point. Since I always count the number of turns of the handle of the reel, I noticed that the blues were hitting on the count of 6, 7 or 8. In fact, on that day, I never bothered to reel beyond a 10 count. This made things a lot easier with less time between hook-ups.

The hardest part of all this is obviously finding the fish. The clearest, but not always the most reliable, method of locating fish is an enormous cloud of screeching and diving sea birds picking bait fish from the water. I say not the most reliable because you may find the birds working over bait fish with the predators not ready to feed. They will at sometime during the tide, but for now they are content to simply herd the schools of bait into a compact mass for easy pickings later on. Often you must wait to see what kind of a feeding pattern develops. Will the predators wait for the start of the new tide? Will they begin when the tide is running the hardest? Once the fish establish a pattern, however, they will stick to it for a few tides at least.

Diamond jigging is easy and yet its rewards are great! Don't forget to tie the jig and teaser tube onto a three-way swivel with heavy mono, to count your retrieve until you find the level the fish are feeding on and to remain observant to diving terns and agitated bait. On calendars you see that the gem for April is the diamond, but on a fishing calendar the diamond is the gem of autumn.

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MIXED BAG ON "THE ROCKS"

by Russ Wilson

Long Island and New York Metropolitan area saltwater fishermen who enjoy catching bottom fish might want to check out the potential of a few spots that are closer to New Jersey, but well within range of private, charter and party boat skippers who sail from New York ports.

The Shrewsbury Rocks, famous among New York Bight anglers for its fantastic striped bass, weakfish and bluefishing potential, is also a late season haven for sea bass, blackfish, porgy, ling, whiting and in times of plenty, school size codfish, pollock and white hake.

Quite naturally, as in most metropolitan waters during the tag end of the season, sea bass and blackfish will dominate the catch.

You may also find some big porgy and occasionally ling, whiting and codfish will grab a bait, but for day in, day out action, it is the blackfish and sea bass that put weight in the coolers and gunny sacks of savvy bottom fishermen.

On more than one occasion I've vied for position with skippers on the Sheepshead Bay party boats and many of the private boat owners who know about the Shrewsbury Rocks' hidden wealth of bottom species.

Good fishing spots do not remain secret very long. For decades New Yorkers have sailed to the Rocks to cash in on the finest kind of sea bass, porgy and tautog fishing. I'd venture a guess that more would follow if they knew what they have been missing!

At any rate, from now until mid-December some outrageous bottom fishing is on tap for anglers who probe the rocky bottom grounds offshore of Sea Bright.

The Shrewsbury Rocks are divided into two distinctly different areas, one lying close inshore and a second located offshore of the Gas Buoy (A Buoy to some). The inner rocks are marked at the outlying end by a large green can buoy. From this marker out to the Gas Buoy the bottom is relatively flat but does have a few rocky areas that are known to produce good catches of sea bass, porgy and tautog.

In my opinion, the inshore rocks are the best place to catch blackfish, sea bass and porgy during October and November.

As with any type of saltwater fishing, it is up to each individual to find the spots that are most apt to yield good catches. There are literally hundreds of such hotspots within the area covered by the Rocks that anyone with a basic knowledge of depth finders can easily pinpoint.

I'll provide an overview of what's available and give some Loran C numbers that have produced for me in the past. But there are no guarantees those same spots will produce again this season, so be prepared to do a little searching on your own. Rest assured, any time spent in locating the structure at the Rocks is going to pay big dividends. All of the party, charter and private boaters who fish Shrewsbury Rocks have paid their dues. It goes without saying that the same will apply to anyone who is new to the area.

Most any pronounced dropoff or sharp rise in the bottom is a likely spot to set the anchor. There is one dropoff located at the northernmost end of the Rocks that shows up on the chart recorder like someone took an axe and chopped off the side of a mountain to form a sheer dropoff into never-never land.

When you are over the cliff, the color scope or chart recorder will show a bottom depth of 18 feet. In an instant, the bottom will drop off to more than 40 feet. Talk about bottom fish habitat, this is it in spades! After more than 25 years, I've yet to fish that particular piece of broken bottom without catching.

The ledge is situated inshore of the green can buoy about a quarter mile and extends for almost a mile on a

(Continued on next page.)

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northwest heading toward a high rise condominium located at Monmouth Beach (Channel Club Condominiums).

Ideally located for migrating fish, the ledge is best fished with a northerly wind and a tide that is running in the same direction. By anchoring above the ledge and dropping back on the anchor line until you are positioned directly above the top of the ledge, it is possible to drop baits directly down so the line does not snag in the rocky bottom.

I've had some days when it was almost too easy to catch. Those days are, of course, memorable. More often, the tautog and sea bass will be moving about on the structure and you'll have shots of fast fishing and periods when you might guess there wasn't a fish within miles.

That's what makes this particular spot so attractive to knowledgeable captains who have the savvy to outwait the fish. A novice might drop anchor, sit for a few minutes without getting a bite and decide the spot is barren. Savvy skippers will bide their time, knowing that sooner or later the fish will decide to eat.

Quite a few of the Sheepshead Bay party boats will head for the Shrewsbury Rocks during the tag end of the season. The Pilot II and Helen H are usually there, along with other New York area and New Jersey head boats that sail from Atlantic Highlands, Belmar and Brielle.

By mid or late November, the crowds will have thinned to only a few dedicated party, charter and private boat skippers who know of the Rocks potential to hold bottom fish when other more easily reached waters are finished for the season.

As water temperatures slump into the low 50s or upper 40s, it pays to shift off to the deeper offshore sets. Late November and December are prime time for catching bragging size tautog from the 50 to 65 foot depths that are found offshore of the Gas Buoy.

This is a dedicated tautog fisherman's idea of what might be considered dying and going to Heaven. The offshore set includes lots of uneven, rock-strewn bottom plus a super hotspot that most area captains refer to as the "Rattle Snake."

The Snake is blanketed with big blackfish during December and into January. Catches often number 40 or more per angler, with pool winning tog often topping the 10 pound mark and occasionally going to 12 or 14 pounds!

Success will depend on existing conditions. When the seas are moderate, strikes are telegraphed up the line solidly enough to alert you that a blackfish or sea bass has taken the bait, and your catches will skyrocket.

By the same token, a rough sea or heavy winds that cause the boat to swing on the anchor do not provide as many successful hook-ups even though the fish are actively feeding. Unfortunately, winter winds are normally from the westerly quarter and will often gust to 30 or 40 knots, making it very difficult to feel the delicate hit of a crafty tautog or humpback sea bass.

You will need stout tackle to tame the larger blackfish and to accommodate the heavy sinkers that are often needed to hold bottom. A favorite among many experienced bottom fishermen, and one that I can recommend without hesitation, consists of a beefy 7 to 8 foot boat rod, matching conventional or spinning reel and 20 or 25 pound test monofilament or dacron line.

This tackle may seem heavy to anyone who is used to catching blackfish and sea bass from the inshore wrecks and rocky bottom grounds. But, until you've had to try getting a bait to hold bottom in deeper waters with winds howling at 30 knots and a strong tide that requires 8, 10 or 12 ounces of lead, you cannot appreciate the amount of strain that will be placed upon the tackle.

A 5 pound blackfish is a tough customer when taken on reasonably heavy tackle. Imagine, if you will, the fight that a 10 or 15 pounder is going to provide and then decide whether or not you want to try using light tackle!

The object of fishing is to catch fish and to have a little fun in the process. When probing rock infested waters, where each fish you hook might be a potential record breaker, it pays to have equipment that isn't going to let you down.

Most experienced bottom fishermen will normally use Virginia style hooks in #4 to #7 or will opt for a beak style hook in sizes 1, 1/0 or 2/0 when fishing inshore waters for tautog or sea bass. When probing the deeper waters during late season, where there is a chance of hooking a bragging size tog or humpback sea bass, the sharpies at bottom fishing rig with slightly larger hooks and will normally snell them on 40 or 50 pound test stiff leader material.

The stiff leader material will cause the hooks to stand out from the main leader, making tangles less apt to occur and giving a much better presentation of baits. As a rule, the experienced fishermen use two hooks rather than the single hook rig that is almost standard when fishing inshore waters.

When fishing aboard a party or charter boat the bait is supplied. More often than not you'll be baiting with green or fiddler crab, or clam. Knowledgeable party boat regulars will also make it a point to carry a package of squid and perhaps a dozen sand or blood worms just in case there are porgy (scup) inhabiting the structure.

Big tautog eat large baits. When probing the deeper waters of the Rattle Snake and other offshore spots at the Shrewsbury Rocks, you can forget those tiny fiddlers or small pieces of clam that catch when fishing inshore. They are not likely to get the

attention of a 10 pound white chin that's looking for a meal to fill his belly, but the small baits will certainly attract plenty of pesky bait stealing cunners! If you want to catch bragging size tautog, try baiting those larger hooks with a whole or half green crab and your catch of bigger blackfish should show immediate improvement.

There's no knack whatsoever in hooking sea bass. They grab a bait and hang on until they are hooked or have stolen the bait. Porgy can be tricky, but certainly not on a par with blackfish that can strip a hook without you knowing you've been had.

Most experienced blackfish anglers give total concentration when waiting for a fish to hit. You can easily separate the pros from the beginners just by watching how they fish. The guys and gals who know what it is all about are not gabbing with other anglers; they are watching the line and ready to lift the rod at the slightest signal that a tautog has decided to eat.

Concentration is probably the most important ingredient to being a success at catching blackfish, but it isn't the only way to put fish in the cooler. A tip that was passed along to us by one of the guys who always seems to come up with a pool winner, has proven its worth on more than one occasion when probing the rocks. He recommends not to set the hook the minute you feel a blackfish has taken the bait.

A more successful approach, and one that will usually result in a solid hook-up, is to give the fish a moment to take the crab into its mouth before setting the hook.

I would imagine most experienced bottom fishermen already know that a grapple type anchor is more applicable to rocky bottom areas than is the standard Danforth type. Those who haven't tried using a grapple are advised to give it a try for it could save some money.

When anchoring in rocky bottom structure there is always the chance of having the anchor lodge between rocks or in crevices where it cannot be pulled free. With a grapple type, however, the arms (most grapple hooks have six) will bend enough to free the hook and the expense of replacing anchor and line are minimized.

If you hope to be a success at catching bottom fish from the Rocks you will also need a reliable chart. There are several available that can be used to locate Shrewsbury Rocks' structure areas.

The National Atmospheric and Oceanic Administration charts are excellent and can be purchased at most any local marina. You will need chart #12326 which includes part of Raritan Bay and all inshore waters from the New York side of Sandy Hook Bay to Manasquan Inlet.

Kencurt chart #4 (12326) includes approaches to New York, and Fire Island Light to Sea Girt Light has the Shrewsbury Rocks highlighted and shows inshore structure as well as some of the broken bottom grounds lying east of the Gas Buoy. This chart is also available at most local marinas and boating supply outlets.

I promised some Loran C numbers at the onset of this rather lengthy article. When setting a course for the Shrewsbury Rocks inshore structure, use Loran C numbers 26950/43635 as a starting point. This will put you on the Rocks and once there, you can pinpoint potential fishing areas with a color scope, chart recorder or LRC unit.

Loran C numbers for the Rattle Snake are 26925/43635, but when using these keep in mind that this is a rather large area and those numbers may not necessarily put you on the most productive spots.

That's about it for the Shrewsbury Rocks. There are many, many outstanding bottom fishing spots in this small section of the New York Bight. Once you become acquainted with its potential you, too, will have "secret" favorites.

I carry a "little black book" and each time I find a new dropoff or high bottom rise I'll jot the numbers down in the book for later reference. At the present time, there are more than 40 individual sets of Loran numbers, each having produced fish on one or more occasions!

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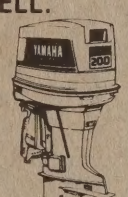

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SANTEE CATS

by Gene Seraphine

Like the long, rigid fingers of a drowning man gradually slipping below the surface, the piling-like trunks of yesteryear's cedar trees stood stark in the early morning mist, blur as the boat skims past them at speeds of 45 and 50 miles an hour.

Knowing these waterways and the navigable passages between the blackened trunks lurking just below the surface, is the secret to those who traverse the highways of this man-made lake country—but only after many years of practice and a long, sad log of many busted props and lower units.

It's South Carolina's Santee-Cooper country where the main attraction is Lake Moultrie and Marion. This is the East Coast's capital for big catfish which lie and feed in a labyrinth of food-rich river and creek beds.

Both lakes were formed when World War II was looming and with it the scare of a possible invasion. The purpose was to provide inland access via these lakes and the Santee and Cooper Rivers southeast, down-state to the Atlantic. And when this creek-entwined, marshy bottomland was finally fully flooded and the dams locked, the nutrients of the marsh and its food chain were trapped in place. So, too, were the anadromous striped bass, flathead catfish, largemouth bass, perch, crappies, bream, gizzard shad, herring and many other species of baitfish which account for the healthy growth of cats and stripers.

Seasoned South Carolina guide Frank Drose drawled fishing plans, barely audible above the roar of the big outboard as he careened dangerously close to submerged tree trunks and both dead and healthy cyprus trees. "We're gonna head to the open water at the south end of this forest and jig up some small perch and shad for Mr. Catfish's breakfast. These big cats will take both livelined baitfish and fresh cuts."

Jigging the small baitfish off the bottom on the light spinning equipment began to get us hyped, and when the live well was full and the fresh cuts ready, Frank slammed the throttle forward and we were off to big cat country.

He assured us in advance that if the stripers commenced to swirl the surface (which would be marked by diving gulls visible from afar), we would haul anchor and scamper from the cat nursery to get into the striper action. But in the meantime, we were stalking the big cats of Santee-Cooper Country.

Frank backed off the throttle as we approached a stump-filled area. The boat was barely moving. He squinted back and forth marking two stumps fore and aft. His orange plastic marker reel went over the side and wobbled seemingly forever as the sinker pulled line from it. "According to the fish/depth finder, 'fatso' is right down there," Frank gestured. "We'll tie to the tree stump ahead and to the one aft and set the boat right on the plastic marker." The yards and yards of quarter inch nylon whirred through the chucks until we were finally positioned between the two stumps. The lines were drawn tight and cleated to stern and bow. Frank then live and chunk baited six of his graphite Ugly Stiks equipped with light trolling reels and 80 pound test mono. Anticipating the usual dumb query from the clients, our man, Frank, pre-empted with "That's right, 80 pound. We don't need capacity, we need strength. These cats don't run far, but they bulldog like hell on the bottom close to their range. If we get into the 20 and over pounders, we'll need every bit of that 80 pound test to handle his bulldogging and for finally raising him to the surface without breaking him off."

With all six rods set three on a side in break-free rod holders and with the sinker weighted baits 10 inches off the bottom of the underlying creek bed, we sat back and waited.

My fishing buddy, Joe Scott, Eastern Airlines Marketing Consultant, was ordered to keep his eye on the port side rods and I was to ride herd on the starboard set—with Frank up forward watching both sides and the both of us. "When that rod tip commences to ease down to touch the surface, then gently, very gently, slip the rod butt out of the holder," Frank advised. "And never, but never, wiggle the rod tip when you slip it out of the holder. Then, very gently—as the rod tip bends and dapples the surface—slip the rod butt out of the holder and with the right hand clutching the rod up near the first guide and the left clutching the end of the cork butt, snap the rod up with all your

Twelve pounds of fat cat comes over the gunnel of Santee-Cooper guide Frank Drose's 20 foot Sea Ox during an early December cat-stalking expedition on Lake Moultrie. ***Photo by Joe Scott.***

might. Cats are all cartilage. Sinking even an ultra-sharp hook into the roof of his gaping yap ain't easy.'' Frank lit his pipe and settled down for the wait.

''These cats,'' he started, as he blew a stream of blue smoke out the side of his mouth, ''are both Arkansas blues and flatheads. We're startin' some hybrids in these lakes now and they are taking hold beautifully. Expectations are that the hybrids will outweight both the blues and the flatheads in another year or two. Like the hybrid white bass we now have in these lakes, the blues were planted here many years ago and are also thriving and multiplying like mad. But the flatheads like the river cats...'' suddenly Frank modulated down to a hoarse whisper, ''grab that middle rod,'' he croaked. ''Looks like a flat is taking the bait. Remember, no wiggling,'' he cautioned.

With all the years making up a diverse angling career on my record, I suddenly felt like a grade-schooler being taken by the hand to the blackboard. Frank's stare bore down on me as I reached for the rod—almost challenging me to make a mistake. I swear I didn't wiggle the tip when I slipped the rod butt from the holder. And I swear I didn't wiggle it when I eased my left hand up the rod shaft almost to the first guide. And as instructed, when the rod tip dipped gently into the water under the steady pull being exercised by Mr. Cat, I bent down for the sudden snap-up of the rod. The vigorous yank must have worked. The Ugly Stik bent into an awesome arch vibrating violently in concert with the bulldogging of the battling bewhiskered behemoth below.

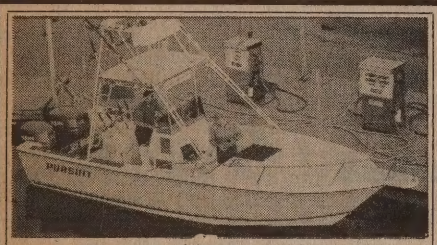
And so it went, with Frank's grueling stare and this writer's fear of the ultimate mistake. The tension eased as Frank slipped the net under the belly of the convulsive monster. And though I lost the next one, Frank let me down easy. But then Joe boated a mate to my first—about 16 pounds—and when the third whiskered-one unwillingly succumbed to the net, our guide's face went into an ear-to-ear grin. Frank's feline-catching ability blossomed and he added ''Now I hope this will give you Yanks something to write about.''

Now, if you haven't eaten Santee-Cooper catfish, you just haven't been full circle around the seafood table. The Carolinian corn-mealed and deep fry technique only separates it from the hush puppies in taste, not in looks. Both are prepared to a golden brown and are a succulent morsel to the palate. Collard greens and black-eyed peas complete the boneless sweet tasting catfish dinner.

There's only about two months out of the year when fishing comes pretty much to drying up in the Santee lakes: January and February. And that is mainly because the S.C.s consider 45 and 50 degree temperatures uncomfortable. But March signals the commencement of spring fishing of generally all species in these lakes with crappie angling starting in late February. Incidentally, a black crappie of 5 pounds was a record held by these lakes for several years. So it was with a 58 pound channel cat; a world record warmouth; a 55 pound striped bass; and a 19 pound mudfish. Big largemouths are commonplace in Santee country.

Reminiscent of Eastern Airlines' ''Flying Fsherman'' service of several years back, their connections to the Santee area are still excellent out of all greater Metro New York airports to Charleston, S.C. Their economical special rates are in effect to this destination. Charleston to Santee-Cooper is only about 50 minutes. Inside of three hours, the New York/Long Island angler can be in Santee country and on the water fishing.

Without reservation, the knowlegeable hot-dog in the catfish guiding department is Frank Drose who operates roomy 20 foot outboard runabouts. The charge is $120 per day with the anglers picking up the extra costs for ice, bait, gas and oil. These boats take parties of three and four. Frank Drose can be reached at (803) 435-8616 or (803) 478-4428. Other equally good guides are available, as is all detailed fishing information from the Santee-Cooper Counties Promotion Commission, P.O. Drawer 40, Santee, SC 29142; (803) 854-2131.



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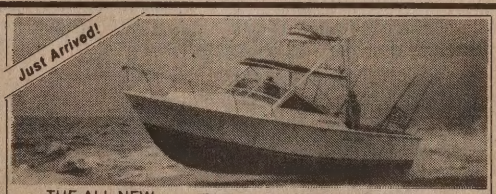

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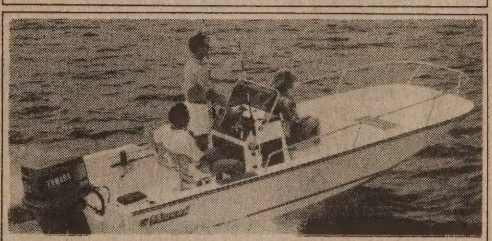

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THE PUGNACIOUS BLACKFISH:
SALTWATER BULLDOG
Part Two—by Matt Ahern

In last week's article I gave reasons why I thought sinker bouncers would be more successful if they first learned the basics of blackfishing. (As an old-timer told me many years ago: "Learn to catch blackfish, sonny, and you'll never worry about putting fish in the tub.")

Of course, if you are a cod or fluke specialist, and should this be the limit of your interest in the fishing game, I'm sure what follows will not be of much use to you. But most of us dunk bait, however, and we do so for whatever is available at the moment. We all know some fishermen are more skilled than others, but I'm sure even these skillful fellows wish at times that they could be more successful. As for myself, I have been lucky to have been associated with the fishing game for 66 years (phew!); yet I am seldom completely satisfied with my results. I find myself always hoping to do better "next time." Surely, for dedicated fishermen, hope forever springs eternal.

Occasionally I receive letters from Fisherman readers who tell me my blackfishing methods "are all wet." These letters rarely faze me, for they might be right. No one knows all there is to know about fishing; therefore, beware of fishermen who claim to have all the answers. The good Lord has never seen fit to dispense this knowledge (at least, not to me). I'm sure if He did, I would quickly lose interest. This is as it should be—for if we fellows knew all the answers, from where would come the challenge?

Therefore, when these fellows write and tell me of better blackfishing methods than mine, I'm all for them. Many who write go into great detail about their sure-fire methods; for which I am most grateful. And you may be certain these bits of information are tucked away for future use. And I thank them again for their kindness.

However, those blackfishing methods I use certainly work for me (and have for over a half-century), and because of this, I feel no qualms about relating them.

Blackfish demand more knowledge than most of our bottom feeders. One might say that blackfishing is an art, one acquired by long study, or by trial and error. Therefore, the good blackfisherman, the consistent producer, is a fisherman par excellence and we can all learn something from him.

But don't let this frighten you from blackfishing. Fishermen with little or no experience take their share every day. I recall a trip on the Captain Clark II sometime ago when one of the largest blackfish of the day was taken by a youngster eight or nine years old. However, those fellows who continuously excel are those who know their blackfish. And when they transfer that knowledge to other fish, they find those fish quite easy to come by. Which all harkens back to the advice given me by that old-timer of my boyhood days: learn to catch blackfish and you'll never worry about putting fish in the tub.

"Learn to catch blackfish, sonny, and you'll never worry about putting fish in the tub."

There are two necessary requirements before one becomes proficient in the art of blackfishing. One, and of most importance, requires the knowledge of where and how to locate wily old chisel tooth; and two, how to get that hook where it will do the most good. We fishermen may get by with less than precise knowledge of that last requirement, but never without the first. Without that first requirement, we will never have the opportunity to use the second. And this is what makes the art of blackfishing so frustrating to many.

If you intend to do your blackfishing aboard a party or charter boat, you can forget that first requirement. The responsibility of putting you over a piece of bottom which will produce blackfish is solely the skipper's. And no one, and I mean no one, is going to beat these fellows at their own game. I have fished aboard party boats all my life and I never cease to be amazed at the skill and knowledge these enterprising fellows possess. It is often uncanny. But to a blackfish-producing skipper it is all in a day's work.

But for you fellows on your own, my advice is to seek blackfish wherever there is obstructed bottom. Always! When boat fishing this can be in the form of rocks, rocky ledges, or sunken wrecks—any obstruction that has been underwater long enough to become festooned with weed, mussels, or barnacles—and crabs, the piece de resistance of all blackfish.

Rocks and ledges are not too difficult to locate with the aid of an up-to-date chart of the area you plan to fish; but I would forget about wrecks. Wreck fishing requires special knowledge, not only for pinpoint location, but tidal conditions, currents, wind velocity and its direction—all must be considered for proper anchoring. Leave this branch of blackfishing to professionals.

For shore fishermen, there are bridge abutments, pilings, bulkheads, decaying wharves, jetties, groins, breakwaters and anything of similar nature. All these will produce blackfish at one time or another. I put it this way because the food supply in small areas is often depleted by an overabundance of fish and what may produce fish today may not necessarily produce fish tomorrow; therefore, shore fishermen should consider moving about until fish are located.

And this bring us to the all important part of blackfishing: your bait must be in the exact area that contains the fish. Even should there be scores of blackfish feeding within five feet of your bait, you might just as well be fishing the Sahara for all the blackfish you'll catch. Old chisel tooth will not leave his chosen area no matter how choice your bait. Frustrating? Sure. But crackerjack blackfishermen take it all in stride. And so must you.

Because even small blackfish are extremely strong for their size, serious thought must be given to the selection of proper tackle. If you intend to do your blackfishing inshore, it is possible to get by with medium-weight spinning gear. But if your plan is to fish those deeper off-

(Continued on next page.)

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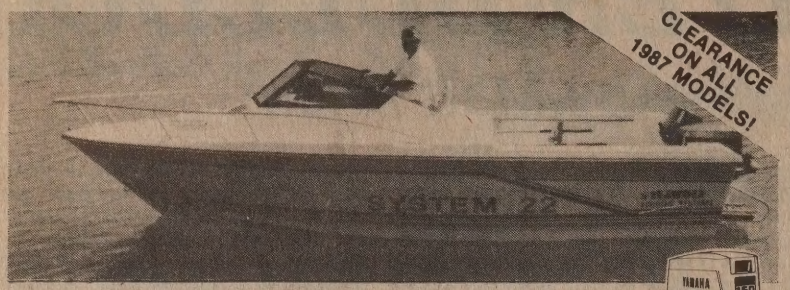

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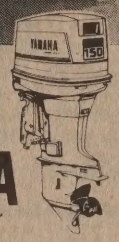

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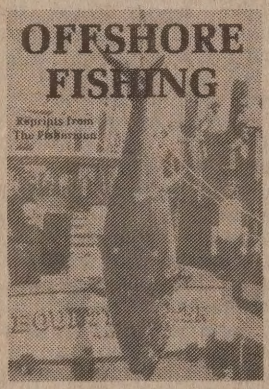

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shore areas (as when party boat fishing), be advised to use medium weight conventional tackle.

It is important to use a rod that can not only handle the heavy sinkers required in deep areas, but it must also have the backbone to sink the hook quickly and get the fish started away from whatever obstruction you are fishing. Should you fail to do this, the chances are excellent (especially when wreck fishing) that you are not only going to lose your fish, but terminal tackle along with it.

Whichever of these two outfits you decide on, fill a matching reel with **good** quality 20 pound test monofilament. Don't skimp on this. Quality line will save you riggings when you become snagged. And you will become snagged; you can be sure of that. If this doesn't happen from time to time, you are not fishing in prime blackfish territory. Unless you aren't concerned with the cost of replacing snagged rigging, use the 20 pound stuff. It will save you headaches and can still be broken off without too much difficulty if need be. (Anything over 20 pound test is too time consuming when attempting to break free.) Dependent upon the area fished, the mortality rate on hooks and sinkers can be high. Be sure to carry replacements—especially when out on your own.

Which brings us to hooks.

Ask any veteran blackfisherman about hooks and he'll tell you there is no hook more suitable for the job than the Virginia style. Its short bite and offset hollow point and barb were especially designed for blackfish. It is the only hook to use for old chisel tooth. For inshore waters a #8 or #6 will do nicely. But for those crusty old bulldogs, I use nothing smaller than a #5. Some fellows who specialize in big blackfish dote on the larger #4.

When fishing "sticky" areas, use one hook tied in about two inches above the sinker—bank style preferred! Your bait must lie on bottom—quietly! Blackfish are spooky and those fishermen who keep this in mind will be more successful.

For less obstructed bottom, two hooks may be used as a hi-lo rig (for a possible cod, if you're lucky), or by tandem tying two hooks and placing them three inches above the sinker. To tandem tie, simply fold the snell of one hook at its middle and run this fold through the knotted loop of the second hook. Then take this second hook and bring it through the fold, draw it up snug, and secure with an overhand knot. Takes but seconds; but practice first.

For fall blackfish, there is only one kind of bait to use: crab. These can be China-backs or green crab. Both produce; but my favorite is green crab. To use, simply lift off the top shell, break the legs off close to the body and, depending upon size, cut the crab into two or more pieces. Insert the hook through one of the leg holes and push through to the opposite side. Make sure point and

barb are exposed for instant hooking. For China-backs, simply insert the hook through one side (remove the large male claw if you wish). It is perhaps best to place the hook inside the China-back instead of bringing it through as with green crab. China-backs are fragile and easily crushed when heavy-handed methods are used. Allowing the hook to remain inside the body does away with this problem.

Skimmer clam makes good bait—if (and this is a big "if") there is not an abundance of bergalls in the area. Bergalls will go through this bait like a mowing machine. These bait thieves can be a nuisance, no question about it; but if there are none in your fishing area, neither will there be blackfish.

Now we come to requirement number two: how to get that hook where it will do the most good.

One of the reasons beginning blackfishermen are not as successful as seasoned anglers is because they flail away at every bite. The blackfish is a cautious creature, ever on the alert. You cannot get it interested in your bait if you strike back at every bergall bite. In the beginning of one's blackfishing career, this takes some doing, I know. But it must be done.

Blackfish approach bait most warily, nip at it several times with their canine-like front teeth and if all seems well, will then pass it back to a second set of teeth located near the throat. These are called crushers. Should you attempt to set the hook before this happens, it usually means goodbye blackfish. At best, you will have a lightly lip-hooked fish. Should you find this happening frequently, put a brake on your reflexes.

When bait is passed to the crushers, the hook is felt and it is then when you will be rewarded with an unmistakable strong yank. NOW is the time to come back on the fish—hard! This heavy-handed method is needed to start the fish away from the obstruction. This is the crucial moment. Raise the rod high, hold it there and begin reeling. (If the fish is large, this might require brute strength.) Once the fish is clear, say 10 or 15 feet, you can slowly lower the rod for more comfortable reeling. Under no circumstances should you attempt to horse the fish. Let the reel's drag do the work. You'll find, too, that the fish will tire more quickly when this is done. I have never had a hook pull out of a black's tough mouth so don't worry about losing your fish because of that. But I've lost scads by allowing them to get back to the obstruction. A word to the wise is sufficient.

And that's all I can think of now about the art of blackfishing. There is much more, of course, but these are the basics. Master them and watch those other bottom feeders go into your bucket.

November is the ideal month for blackfishing—always was. Your opportunity is at hand. The rest is up to you.

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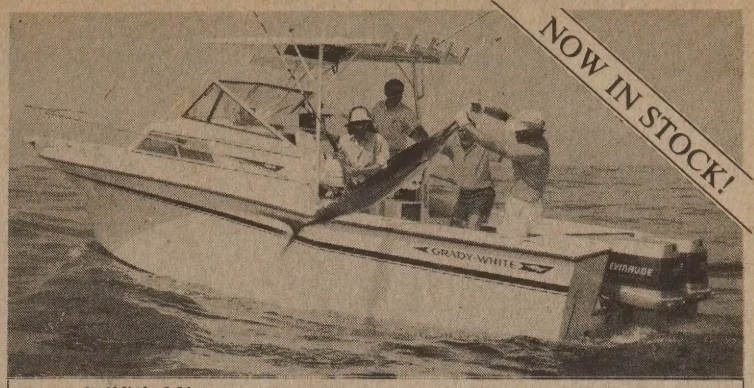

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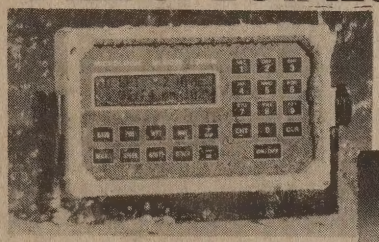

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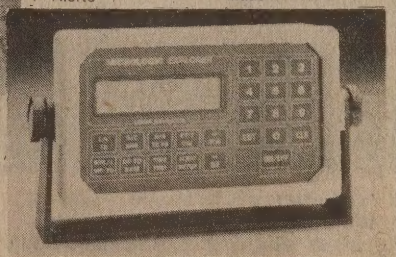

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"FIGHT 'EM HARD"

by Carl Buxbaum

"It's ominous; it's ominous," was all Leo could say that afternoon early last September as a 3 or 4 acre patch of rippling water, blackened by the backs of bluefish packed side against side, swept toward us at Jones Reef. Incredulous tourists visiting the Montauk light sat on the beach like spectators in a stadium, sharing our excitement, when the savage horde stormed toward shore. Absolutely wild east end action held for over two months, nonstop—as if nature had thrown us a consolation prize for the striper ban of '86. It was simply the hottest chopper season I ever experienced, or even dreamt of.

But by late September, I developed a cast of what may humorously be called bluefish elbow: aching tendonitis in my right arm. It was joined by persistently painful bursitis of the right shoulder a couple of weeks later. That wasn't so funny; a good fish fighting session led to a sleepless night in agony. Unable to let the season escape my grasp, I started using a light 8 foot rod and matched reel loaded with 10 pound test line—the outfit usually reserved for back bay work on cocktail blues and summer weakfish—and the bursitis gradually healed, leaving behind a tolerable case of bluefish elbow.

The 8 footer beached lots of fish, too, and I wound up bragging and patting myself on the back for supreme angling finesse—especially after a long battle in Turtle Cove that ended with a wave laying a played out 16 pound chopper at my feet. But something important was missing. You see, when I'm in the mood for finesse, I'd rather go for largemouth bass on ultralight spinning gear or take out a fly rod for trout.

Surfcasting should be rugged and muscular, fitting the power of the sea itself. That's what it's all about. I like to feel the heft of beefy tackle, the thrill of a vicious strike, a long rod bent to the butt or an authoritative hook set, and pulsing, raw, primitive might at the other end of the line. These experiences are lost with light tackle. The sponginess and delicately tuned drags dampen the energy exerted at both ends of the line: a wedge is driven between angler and quarry; the combat seems abstract instead of head to head. And much of the thrill is lost. I vowed that as long as my decaying body held out and I planned to tangle with fish over 5 pounds in the surf, I would fight 'em hard.

Now, fighting fish hard is relative: it doesn't mean horsing one till the hook is yanked out, or the line snaps, or parts of the gamester's face are ripped off. It does mean maintaining a steady, firm pressure that you feel in your muscles, always keeping the fish coming your way, being in command and giving up an inch of line only to a real brute that has earned it. Done right, this approach probably requires more angling skill than light tackle methods, because husky rods and snug drags are not as forgiving of your miscalculations as lighter tackle that cushions the shocks of a quarry's sudden lunges as the rod flexes, line stretches and drag slips.

Unforgiving tackle requires a caster to cultivate a special kind of judgment—almost like being able to visualize the fish, what it is doing, and how well the hook is planted—from what you feel through the rod, know about the species and about the lures in use, as well as what has been learned about the behavior of a

hooked fish throughout a battle.

For example, I usually have a good sense that a hook is well set by the unhesitating, downward thump of the rod tip and the feel of a very solid connection, but short-shanked treble hooks tend to get only a shallow snag of a fish's lip. So I try to avoid abrupt rod movements that might tear the lure free, especially when weakfish or big stripers are around. If, on the other hand, I'm using a lure armed with a single 5/0 Siwash hook, I may slam it home a second time for good measure and even horse the fish a bit, because such hooks tend to set deep and grab a big chunk of flesh that's not likely to rip under pressure.

Just about every fish, no matter how played out, seems to muster an extra burst of energy as it comes over a bar or finds itself in uncomfortably shallow water near the end of the fight. Anglers should be ready for a late, powerful surge and visualize the tissue around the hook as having been stretched and torn during the struggle—a "buttonhole," large enough for the hook to fall through or close enough to the edge of a delicate wisp of flesh to tear through, has probably formed. So just hold an unremitting, firm pressure until the fish yields, but don't jerk the rod or crank the reel, except to keep a tight line. Any more force may tear the hook free, and slack may let it drop out through the "buttonhole."

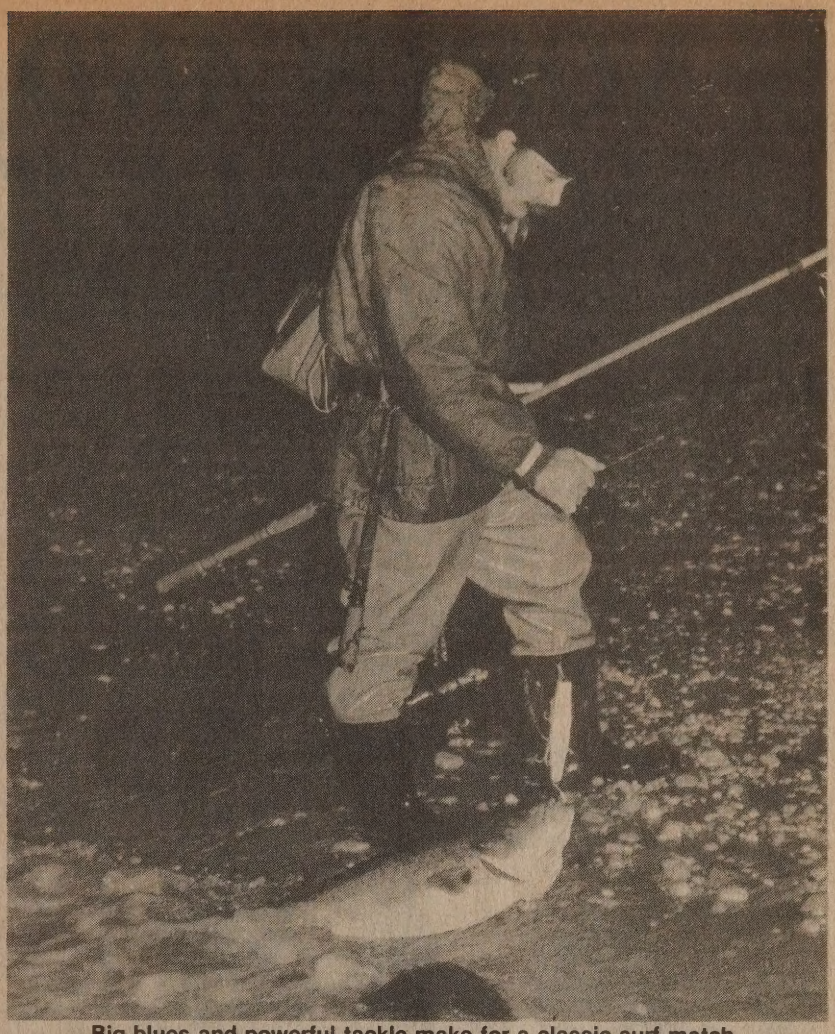
The point is simple: hard fighting surfcasters must use their heads as much as their muscles. There's no formula, except for thought and self-control.

As might be expected, lures should be armed with big hooks that grab a good sized hunk of meat. My favorite is a 5/0 or 6/0 Siwash, a single hook. I mount them on the tails of most of my favorite plugs and certainly on all tins. Sometimes I replace every treble with them, even on needlefish, darters and bottle plugs.

Graphite rods have the rigidity and power to enhance hard battles. But, more important, graphite is so sensitive a material that it actually signals every movement of a game fish through the butt of the rod. Casters who mount their reels directly to cork tape grips will find it fairly easy to visualize the strike, hook set, and struggle, because of the vibrations telegraphed through the reel foot and rod butt to their hands.

But graphites are the least forgiving of any heavy duty surf rods and even veteran casters have complained about losing big stripers when **the rod** tears the hook free. I, however, am not yet convinced that this problem is inherent to the material. Graphite is still a relatively new entry on the surfcasting scene and anglers may just have to change some old habits to take full advantage of it. Setting hooks with a little less exuberance and easing off some near the end of the fight may do the trick. Time will tell.

Naturally, a husky reel that takes up lots of line with each crank, say the big Crack or Penn 706Z, is needed. Drags should be set snugly enough to stop a 6 or 7 pounder in its tracks. At about that top pressure real monsters will be able to gain some line and still get worn down, without getting a chance to rip themselves free.



Big blues and powerful tackle make for a classic surf match.

Twenty pound test is perfect for hard fighting, but I generally prefer 15 pound line. It permits longer casts, has just enough give to cover for some of my mistakes, yet remains unyielding enough to keep the battle tough and brutal—as it ought to be.

Beside personal tastes, there are other good reasons to fight 'em hard. Beaching fish fast is perfect for the times you want to get some bluefish fillets into the freezer and don't know how long the blitz will last. Hard fighting is also well suited to crowded conditions, when your line is likely to be snagged by the lure of another caster during an extended battle. It's also the courteous way to fish in crowds, because it doesn't put others out of action while you're savoring every drawn-out second of sport.

More important than courtesy, and certainly more important than fill-the-freezer gluttony, is the fact that short, hard fights contribute to the survival chances of released fish. I hooked a striper in the high teens and fought it on my bursitis rod last November, not far from Hither Hills. She took a tin, right in the wash, at sunrise and then peeled line until she got over the bar and dug in. Though the rod was in a deep arc, there was so much stretch in the tremendous amount of line she'd taken that I had no feel of a fish, no control and wasn't even sure of just how far downcurrent she'd run. I pumped the rod and reeled in line whenever the drag was quiet and finally, the striper came in on her side, exhausted. It seemed like ages before she stopped rolling over as I worked at reviving her, ages more before she eventually swam away—and she didn't do that very well. It's doubtful that she's alive now. That fish would have still been tough and vigorous after a short and hard fight. She would have darted off with determination as soon as she was free and had her snout pointed seaward.

Keep the muscle in surf fishing for courtesy and conservation, in addition to having the thrill of beast to beast combat that matches a rugged environment of crashing seas, swirling tides, and shifting ground under your feet.

NORTH AND EAST FOR FALL "TOG"

by Gerald Hahn

Blackfish frustrate more anglers than any other bottom fish in the Northeast. A large fish, also known as a bulldog, can put his formidable shoulders and two sets of teeth to work on a rig and snap even 20 pound test line. If he doesn't get you this way, he wraps your rig around the rubble below, his favorite hang-out. To make matters worse, the blackfish is a gourmet who is fond of the most expensive seafood: lobster, shrimp and crab. No fisherman in his right mind would use the first two for bait, but even crabs baits are rather expensive these days. Finally, this fish likes to set up his residence on Long Island Sound in October and November when northeasterly winds gnaw at fishermen's bones and clog the water with a vegetable garden of rig-snaring seaweed. Bulldog is a most appropriate name for this member of the wrasse family.

Actually, anglers only call the largest of the species, fish weighing 6 to 12 pounds, this name. Up North, where blackfish are a prime ingredient in New England fish chowder, anglers have retained the Narragansett Indian name, tautog (pronounced t'tog). Elsewhere, the fish is called white-chin, moll, Will-George and saltwater chub.

It is surprising that this dull-looking fish, in drab gray, brown and black, is a member of the colorful wrasse family. Most of these fish (over 400 species) are tropical. In the Northeast, the only close relative of the blackfish is the bergall, and the two are often seen together. Among other things, the blackfish has a slippery hide, which protects it against infection and deeply embedded scales. The fish also has a great belly and head, yet its mouth is rather small. Open the mouth past the oversized, rubbery lips and you will find two sets of dentures: the ones in front being conical and human-like; the pair in back, called pharyngeal teeth, resembling fossilized mushrooms. The blackfish grasps hard-shelled creatures, such as green crabs, fiddlers, hermit crabs, lobster, shrimp, barnacles and mussels with the front teeth and uses the back teeth as a food processor. The fish has large pectoral fins, which, oddly enough, perform most of the swimming functions, its soft tail serving more as a rudder than a propeller. A slow moving fish, the blackfish neither migrates nor ranges far from the habitat it finds in the fall. Yet, as every experienced blackfish angler knows, the fish is capable of sudden bursts of speed, especially when it sees its dinner on a hook.

These big bulldogs were a common occurrence last fall aboard the Brand X.

Blackfish find their dinner in the junkyards of the sea, wherever shipwrecks, old pilings, bridge supports, boulders and artificial reefs abound. Here the fish locates a suitable crevice in which to hide. When a crab or some other edible comes along, the blackfish rushes out the door like Dagwood Bumstead knocking over the postman and stuns the prey with his front teeth, often removing some claws in the process. This is signaled to the fisherman as a series of rapid taps on the line, somewhat like a bergall's. Then the fish works the prey to the back of the throat, where the mushroom-shaped crushers pulverize the shell into digestible pieces. Never ranging far from home, even for a meal, the blackfish is instantly back in his crevice. Thus, the fisherman must move quickly.

Fairly stout tackle is required for this kind of fishing. Many people favor a 20 pound class conventional outfits, consisting of a 6 foot boat rod with a strong, though flexible tip and reel such as the Daiwa 30H. Strong spinning gear of comparable size and matched with a reel comparable to the Penn 650 is effective as well.

Although tackle for blackfishing varies somewhat, almost everyone relies on a bottom rig fashioned with one or two Virginia hooks. This hook,

also known as a blackfish hook, is a specialty item—a blued hook with a small, hollow point and a kirbed bend. The design is custom-made for securing hard baits and for quickly penetrating the blackfish's tough mouth. Sizes #4 to #6 are commonly used: the larger #4 for the bulldogs and the smaller #6 for average sized fish. The hooks come snelled to 12 inch leaders of 40 pound test. Heavy but necessary.

A typical blackfish rig consists of two snelled hooks tied in tandem, the end of one snell to the middle of the other. The hooks are connected to a three-way swivel at the end of the running line. A wire clip on the swivel holds a bank sinker ranging from 2 to 10 ounces in the fall. If the terrain you locate is an obstacle course of jagged rubble and weeds, use only one hook for the rig.

Although blackfish dine on various creatures, including sea worms and clams, they are best taken with a fiddler crab, a green crab or the hard to come by hermit crab. These baits are not likely to be stolen by bergalls. Of the three, the fiddler is the smallest and the easiest to work with, since it's fished alive. The crab is simply impaled through the rear of the carapace. Some anglers remove the large claw from the male fiddler and insert the hook point through the exposed socket and out the rear. Although the fiddler is only the size of a thumbnail, it is frisky. Its striking China-back markings on the back also make it highly visible.

Nonetheless, many blackfish anglers favor green crabs, especially for larger fish. This crab is the largest of the three and consequently, is usually cut in half or quartered. A section of crab is then rigged with the shell intact, through the joint where a leg or a claw meets the carapace. Some people break off the legs and insert the hook through one socket and out another. Other people remove the carapace as well, which exposes a chunk of white meat. Though highly visible when prepared this way, the bait is difficult to secure on the hook. Fishermen hook the chunk in the hard gristle, wherever it holds. Green crabs come in different sizes, however, and the smallest, about three times the size of a fiddler, are often fished alive. The claws are removed and the back is cracked slightly, to emit juices in the current. The crab is then rigged in the same manner as a fiddler. In both cases, it is important to expose the point of the hook, but not the barb, which serves as a wedge.

In eastern Long Island, North Shore anglers swear by the hermit crab. Expensive and rather difficult to acquire the hermit is unique in possessing a soft sac that resembles a curly tail but is actually the abdomen. Blackfish relish this part and so do humpback porgies and snowshoe flounder. A medium sized crab with stout claws in front, the hermit has a soft shell. For this reason, it must find protection in a discarded shell. The fisherman, conquently, has the job of evicting the crab, by gently pounding on the hard shell with a block of wood or a large diamond-shaped sinker. He then impales the exposed hermit in the belly and out the soft sac. He generally removes the large claws as well. In past seasons, hermits have been sold at Port of Egypt and the Mattituck Fishing Station.

As temperatures fall, blackfish catches are on the rise.

Most fishermen, whether in a private vessel or a rental skiff, fish for blackfish from an anchored boat. Chumming doesn't seem to accomplish much, so a considerable time must be spent finding a suitable spot: 20 minutes here, 20 minutes there. A depth recorder comes in handy. And generally the fish are most active around a tidal change, before or after the current is running at full force. Blackfishing is still-fishing. The rig is lowered to the bottom, the line is tightened, and the rod is held absolutely still, that is, until the telltale taps occur. Then, immediately after setting the hook, the angler must hold the rod tip high while cranking the reel a few turns. This prevents the fish from scurrying to its hiding place or wrapping the line around the structure below.

Early in the season, which can begin in September, the fish move into shallow water, ranging from 10 to 20 feet. Then, as the autumn chill lowers the water temperature, the fish move slightly offshore to deeper water of about 40 feet.

Well-known blackfish haunts on the North Shore are Old Field Point, west of Port Jefferson Inlet, the east end of Wildwood State Park, the Oregon Hills, east of Mattituck Inlet, Mulford Point and the Lighthouse just east of Orient Point. Those who have their own boats often fish off Plum Island and Gull Island, east of Orient.

Blackfishing may not be everyone's game. On one hand, you have to contend with cold, rough seas and a rough terrain and a cunning fish. On the other hand, blackfish, though not always king-sized, are surprisingly abundant. Among other things, their jagged terrain makes commercial fishing useless.

Why not end this fishing season in black?

SMALL POND BASS

by J. Chad

They may be small, but some ponds yield large bass if you don't make a lot of noise and cast precisely.

Small bodies of water, especially man-made farm type ponds, can produce some spectacular bass fishing in the autumn. This, of course, is contingent on the ponds containing bass to begin with—goes without saying.

There are some lunker bass lurking in these small waters and because of their environment they are extremely wary individuals. Many a fisherman argues that little ponds contain only little bass due to the fact that during the spring and summer months one has to be extremely lucky, exceedingly fortunate, blessed, or whatever.

The big ones seem to have a sense about them that registers when anything alien approaches or enters the familiar limited amount of water they swim in. This also holds true during the fall, but to a lesser extent, because in the transition period between the warm water of summer and the onset of cold water temperatures the fish have an increased urge to feed and this somewhat overcomes their natural wariness in their confining surroundings. The fish remain cautious, however, and by no means do they become careless. Because of this many a fisherman who declares small ponds the habitat of small bass in the spring and summer season will unequivocally state that little ponds yield little fish in the autumn also.

From my experience, this is not the case, for the little ponds have meant big bass for me each year when the maples begin to blaze as the days shorten and the nights cool.

The secret, if it is a secret at all, is threefold. First, one has to be sneaky. Second, you must exercise precise casting. Thirdly, all fishing has to be done parallel to the shore with a keen eye kept out for the subtleties of small water structure in contrast to the more obvious types of structure the larger bodies of water afford.

First is sneaky and that means fishing from the shore or close to shore and getting there as quietly as possible. Because of the small and relatively shallow amount of water being dealt with, vibrations along and approaching the bank in addition to shadows cast into the water have a detrimental effect on the fishing and the fish. Come stomping up to the water's edge, then noisily move around with your body between the sun and the water and you might as well have stayed home for the amount of big largemouth action that you are going to receive.

On the other hand, walk slowly, softly and quietly up to the pond's perimeter, on your hands and knees with your fishing pole in your teeth if need be, for the last few yards. Make sure you, the sun and the water are lined up in such a manner that your shadow doesn't fall on the pond's surface. Then carefully eyeball the shoreline for the slightest bit of structure that might harbor a big bass and your odds on doing some good bass fishing have increased dramatically.

Does it sound like a lot of trouble

and bother? Maybe so, but the ones who do it are not the same people who declare that small ponds only yield small fish.

Structure in a small pond is present in various forms and degrees, but on a scale that matches the environment. Many a fisherman used to larger bodies of waters, lakes and reservoirs, has difficulty believing that any "structure" exists at all in a small pond. But it does and it may consist of a single overhanging bush, a limb, or some branches or a stump in the water may be all the structure that exists on one entire side of a pond. But in such areas it's a good bet that at least one large fish lurks, especially in the autumn.

Even if the pond is man-made there are still irregularities in the bottom and a weed line extending out from the shore can indicate this. If the pond has a dam at one end and an adjacent weedy shore, it's a good bet that a few large fish are in the area. Even a slight section of shore that juts out into the water can harbor a decent fish if there is a difference of water depth from one side of the jut to the other.

All this should be fished as closely parallel to the shore as possible and wherever feasible fished from both directions if the first approach yields nothing. Precise casting is important. Errant casts and sloppy retrieves spook fish in no matter what water they are in, but in small ponds the effects are greatly magnified.

As far as the fishing goes, I've used spinner baits and top water swimming minnows with some degree of success. In the restricted shallow waters of a small pond it seems the fish are acutely aware of any surface activity. But the lure I've taken the majority of fish on is a plastic worm.

These I normally fish Texas rigged and find that in the shallow water a worm unencumbered by weight or a slip sinker attracts a lot of attention just sinking or swimming along. If it gets to the bottom by accident or design, working it slowly with intermittent bumps and hops normally stirs up a lot of action.

The only time I use a slip sinker on the worm is when there is a coat of algae on the pond's surface and especially if a wind has blown the stuff into one shore where it has been thickened and condensed. Big bass like to hang out under this cover.

I cast out a worm with a slip sinker into the open water beyond the algae and work the lure along the bottom until I reached the edge of the cover. Once the worm has approached the algae I slowly raise and lower my rod which causes the line to cut through the congestion and, at the same time, moves the worm off and on the bottom as the retrieve continues.

Try this method if a section of water has a thick algae cover; it usually pays off big. Remember what I mentioned about being sneaky, casting precisely and fishing structure and see for yourself if little ponds can mean big fall bass.

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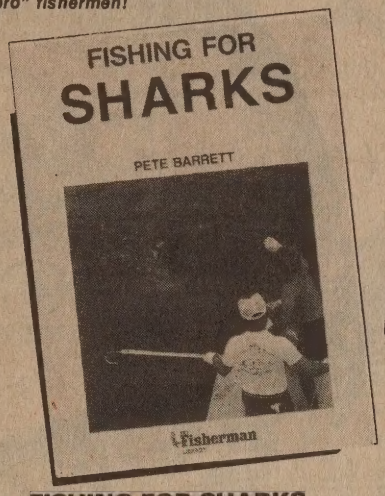

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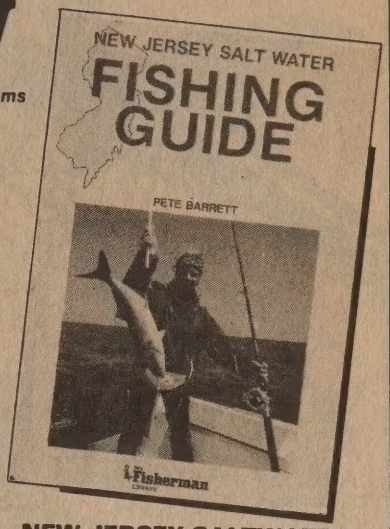

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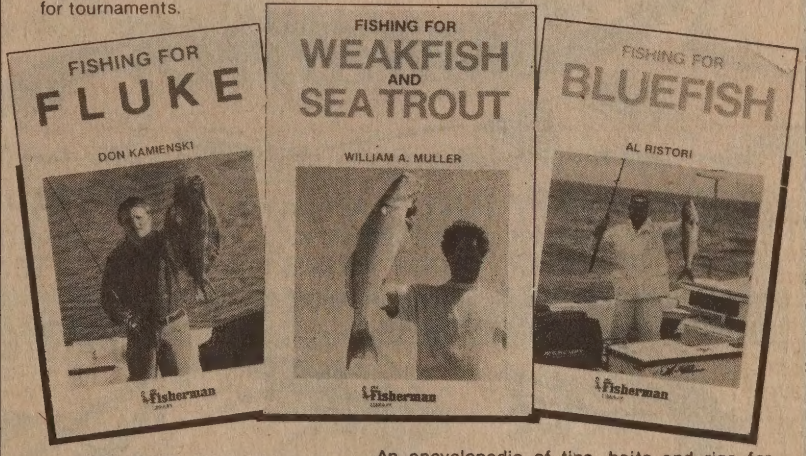

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TRUE ☐
FALSE ☐

(2) THIS ROSY-RED DENIZEN OF THE DEEP IS OFTEN FEATURED ON RESTAURANT MENUS. IT IS THE .....

ANSWERS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE.

BY FRED GUARDINEER

(3) WHITE STURGEON, LARGEST FRESHWATER FISH IN NORTH AMERICA, HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO ATTAIN THE AGE OF
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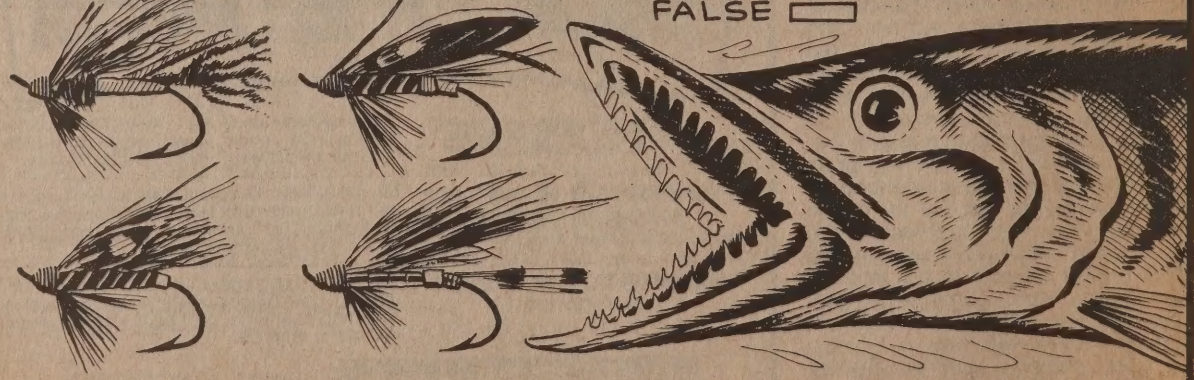
(4) BARRACUDAS USUALLY PREFER A RAPIDLY MOVING LURE TO A SLOW ONE.
TRUE ☐
FALSE ☐

(5) THE RUSTY RAT, BLACK BOMBER, NIGHT HAWK AND COPPER KILLER ARE ALL POPULAR TROUT FLIES ☐ SALMON FLIES ☐ BLUE GILL" ☐

(6) FISHERMEN WHO ARE BITTEN BY SUCH FISH AS WAHOOS, BLUE-FISH ETC. SHOULD BRING THE HEAD OF THE FISH TO A DOCTOR TO BE CHECKED FOR RABIES,,, TRUE ☐
FALSE ☐



1 - TRUE. THE "SWORD" IS COMPOSED OF MAXILLARY AND PREMAXILLARY BONES COVERED BY SKIN AND IS AN EXTENSION OF THE UPPER JAW. 2-RED SNAPPER. 3- 82 YEARS. 4 - TRUE. 5- SALMON FLIES. 6 - FALSE. ONLY WARM BLOODED ANIMALS ARE SUSCEPTIBLE TO THE INFECTIOUS RABIES VIRUS.

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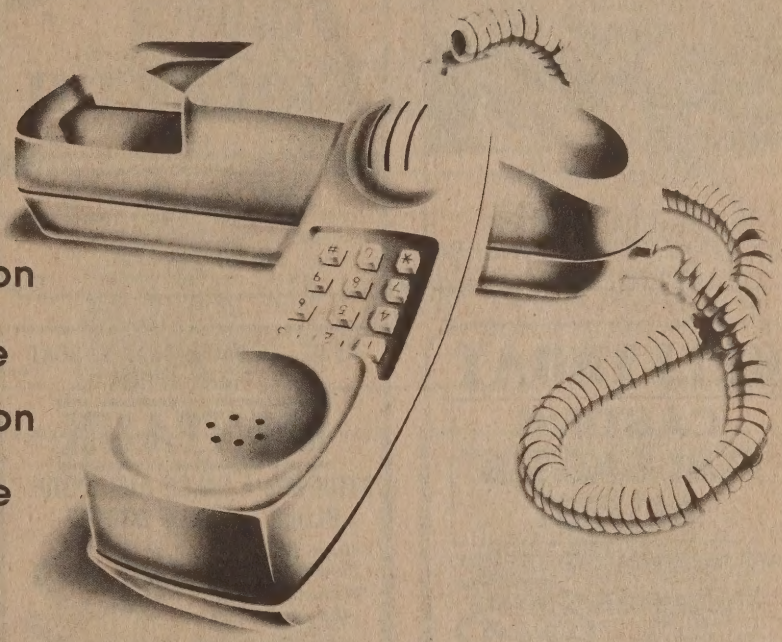

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East End REPORT
with Mrs. Lorry Mangan

Offshore, action was rather slow last week but inshore activity with bass, blues and bottom species was red hot. At the point, anglers are finding all the 8 to 12 lb. blues anyone could want. In fact, the choppers are so thick that they are at times making it difficult to get to the fine run of stripers that seems to be developing. Porgies are still bountiful and blackfishing is definitely on the rise. Fluke, while large, are slowly moving off.

MONTAUK

Plenty of big porgies at Noman's Land. That's the word from Captain Pual Forsberg of the **Viking Fleet**. On Sunday's trip, John Nurchison of Highland Falls, had 176 jumbos. Porgie fishing has been so hot that the Viking will continue sailing to Noman's Land for at least another week. Night bluefishing is still consistent but starting this week, trips will be made only on Saturday. Sunday's tuna trip produced 16 fish with two surpassing 200 lbs. in weight. There are still a few spots open for this Friday's coming Georges Banks trip. The boat leaves the dock at 7PM.

From **Captain's Cove Marina**, Fritzy of the charter boat, **Mistress Too**, reports plenty of bass under the light. Most of the charter fleet is connecting with 2 to 3 legal fish per trip. On the **Mistress Too**, Tuesday's charter produced pairs of bass weighing 20 and 30 lbs. One 40 lber. was

Twelve-year-old Mike O'Neil matched his age with this hefty 12½ lb. doormat fluke caught at Montauk on the family boat, "Just the Beginning." The boat is berthed at West Lake Marina.

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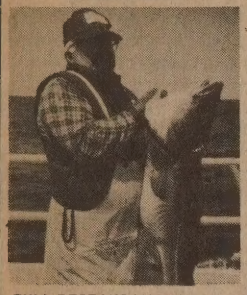

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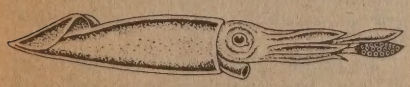

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also taken. Jigging and trolling are both producing fish. Blackfishing is just getting started with the best action still to come.

At **Uihlein's Boat Rentals**, Henry noted his skiffs were returning with loads of blues all week long. Dick Nickerson and son Sean, visiting Montauk on vacation, took more than 2000 lbs. of blues and bass in just two days of fishing. Early in the week, Marty and Matt Pedicini, Bill Honmel, Joe Ortiz and John Warren teamed up to nail 70 blues between 8:30AM and Noon. Most of the action has been off Shagwong.

A call to the **Montauk Marine Basin**, revealed many anglers weighin in bass for the Full Moon Tournament. Leaders as of early Sunday evening were bass of 44, 40, 34, 33 and 21 pounds. Three bigeye tuna were culled from the canyon during the week and a few fluke to 9 lbs. can still be had along the south side. All the blues an angler could want are up front at the light.

At **Tuma's Dock**, the focus was on the excellent action with bass, blues and the inshore bottom species. Bill Wink did, however, turn a few heads by taking a large blue shark on Saturday.

From Bob at the **Star Island Yacht Club**, we learned that Capt. Tom Miller of the charter boat Margret M, put angler Bill Mirbach over 30 blackfish and 20 cod while fishing east of Block Island Sunday morning. The blacks ranged up to 8.5 lbs., while the cod were in the 15 to 25 lb. class. Also on Sunday, the **Lori J** jigged the cooler full with a mix of stripers and blues taken on the Pollock Rips and off the Point.

Captain Ronald Grandinetti of the charter boat **Julie III**, put a party headed by Walter Ross over a huge school of porgies to 3 lbs. on Sunday. 306 mediums and large scup hit the deck along with 9 sea bass and 12 blackfish to 6 lbs. The boat then switched to bass and blue fishing at the Point, scoring with a mess of choppers to 18 lbs. and 4 short stripers.

Captain Tom Federico of the charter boat **Surfmaster**, spent Sunday on a family charter with his brothers and Stacy D'Orazio. Stacy put away a 60 lb. blue shark southeast of Block Island before the boat headed back to tangle with blues at the Point. It was a busy week for the charter boat **Bluefin IV** and skipper Michael Potts. On Tuesday, a special night trip for the three member Rothwell group of East Islip, resulted in 30 stripers taken on spinning gear, 20 bass and 30 blues nailed while trolling bucktails and 18 bass taken on live eels. The eels accounted for keepers of 25, 35 and 45 lbs. Wednesday's charter produced 25 bass to 25 lbs. and a mess of large blues, all taken on bucktails. Thursday's trip with the Busch group, witnessed bucktails account for 30 bass, one legal and a pile of big blues. On Friday, the Rundberg charter had their turn with almost the exact same results. On Friday afternoon, the Corcoran group from General Mills, Westchester, used diamond jigs to nail 150 blues and 20 bass. All these bass were released. On Sunday morning, the Napoli charter produced 15 bass to 30 lbs. on trolled bucktails in addition to blues and small bass taken while casting. After tangling with the larger predators, the boat tried a little blackfishing, scoring with 20 from 3 to 8 lbs. Later that afternoon, Capt. Potts sailed with the Kniffen group from NYC and the 10 to 12 year olds successfully bucktailed 15 bass and 25 blues to 18 lbs.

On the party boat **Little Bear** this week anglers scored well with porgies while fishing off Gardiner's Island. Captain Dusty reports that on Thursday, Orilio Locadia of Brooklyn nailed 124 fish. Most anglers are easily filling a 5 gallon bucket with mixed sized fish.

The **Flying Cloud**, with skipper Fred E. Bird, has also been doing well with porgies off of Gardiner's. A few nice blackfish to 9 lbs. have also mixed in the catches. Sunday's pool winner was a 8.75 lb. tog hoisted aboard by Tom Brown.

SOUTH FORK

At **Bayview Marine and Tackle, Sag Harbor**, George Pharaoh reports very good bluefishing at Plum Gut with a few striped bass to 39 lbs. mixed in. The blues have also showed at Gardiner's Island early and late in the day. Anglers looking for blackfish will find the tog on the backside of Gardiner's. Local flounder and porgy fishing has been poor.

Skipper Artie Lach of the **Sag Harbor** based party boat **Wilhelric II**,

termed the local blackfishing "excellent" through Friday with fares averaging 15 to 20 fish a man. Jack Gleason was high hook on Friday with 22. Fishing over the weekend was slower. Captain Artie expects to be fishing off the Connecticut coast next week where he has been hearing reports of good fishing for bulldog tog.

A call to Mickey at **Altenkirch and Son, Shinnecock**, revealed plenty of blues outside Shinnecock Inlet with lots of small bass and an occasional "keeper" mixed in. Anglers fishing worms at Shinnecock Canal bailed small and medium sized porgies two at a time on Saturday and Sunday. Many left with more than one full bucket. A few flounder were also taken at the canal.

Thom at **Speck's Bait and Tackle, Shinnecock**, confirmed the fast action with porgies inside the canal and also noted the widespread availabilty of bass and blues just outside Shinnecock Inlet.

Anglers from **Mariner's Cove, Shinnecock**, concentrated on flounder fishing last week and many were successful. Among those cashing in were the father and son team of Dan and Matty Johnson, who collected 25 flatties while fishing worms in front of Oscar's Fishing Station. More than half of the flounder weighed in excess of 2 lbs. Incoming water was the key. Mr. and Mrs. Ed Tribil, fishing aboard the Weegee II, also had some good flounder action, taking a dozen on clams dunked west of Oscar's.

Thom Speckenbach of **Speck's Bait and Tackle** in **Southampton** said that the Shinnecock Canal has been well supplied with porgies. On Saturday, one customer known only as Carl used worms to take over 100

Edward Felice and the 60 lb. yellowfin tuna he dragged ashore near Cherry Grove on Fire Island back on September 10th. Ed weighed his amazing catch at J&R Sport Center in Oakdale.

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fish in the ¾ pound range. He managed another bagful of fish on Sunday. Blackfishing has been good at the Shinnecock Inlet rocks and the Ponquogue Bridge continues to produce a mixed bag of sea bass, blackfish and porgies. Flounder fishing has been just so-so with some being taken from Bullhead Bay in Peconic. Jessups continues to produce plenty of blues for those using chunk bait.

South Shore REPORT
with Fred Golofaro

Wind and rain again played a major role in weekend fishing activity. Despite the weather, there were some good blackfish catches made on the inshore reefs and at the bridges. Flounder fishing remains poor in Great South Bay with a few more fish showing in Moriches. Sea bass and porgies round out the bottom action for sinker bouncers.

Lots of bluefish activity around the inlets and continued good fishing on the Patchogue Grounds for jiggers and trollers. There was an excellent run of big blues in the western bays on Sunday with the fish riding herd on bunker schools. Offshore fishing has taken a beating with all of the wind but it appears some good tuna fishing still remains. There was some real good bluefin action on the Bacardi on Saturday and there have been giants taken at the Mud Hole nearly every day it has been fishable.

MORICHES BAY & INLET

Capt. Ron Schleuter of the **Moriches** based **Alma III** said he continues to find good fishing for porgies along with a mixture of sea bass and some flounder between buoys 42 and 45. Some decent flounder action getting underway near Great Gun on the Ebb and back at the Coast Guard Station on the flood. Lots of crabs in the bay with the biggest concentration near Buoy 27. The skipper noted that a few fluke are still around as they are being picked up on flounder baits.

GREAT SOUTH BAY/ FIRE ISLAND INLET

Over at **J&J Tackle** in **Patchogue**, Paul Graniello reported that Moriches Inlet continues to hold a healthy population of bass and

Jimmy Sauer decked this 4 lb. sea bass on the F.I. Reef during a recent trip aboard the open boat, "Captree Queen II."

blues. On Saturday, Sam Kentoffo and Ken Honce trolled bucktails to the tune of a 15 pound striper and several blues in the 10 to 12 pound class. Still a mixed bag of sea bass and porgies in Moriches Bay near buoys 42 to 45. In Great South Bay a mixture of sea bass, porgies and blackfish on the reef and bay wrecks. Tom DeVito and John Ball put away 6 sea bass and 6 blackfish including a 9 pound tautog at Kismet. From the local docks, just a few flounder being picked on worms.

Dave Canale, speaking from **J&R Sports Center** in **Oakdale** had some encouraging news for the blue water set. He told of a 276 pound bluefin tuna taken near the Virginia on Tuesday by Eddie Ramotowski aboard 'Daddy's Girl.' Dave also noted that blackfish continue to be taken on the Kismet Reef but several catches seem to indicate smaller fish dominating the action. A few bigger fish taken at the Bridge and the Construction Dock. Blues have been on and off at the Inlet with fish being taken trolling and on chunked bunker. Still a few fluke hanging around at the Inlet but no one has been making a serious attempt at catching them. Flounder have been quiet as have the local docks.

From **Islander Canvas Bait and Tackle** in **East Islip**, Curt reported that sinker bouncers continue to score well with blackfish at the WR Buoy, the R.M. Bridge and the Construction Dock. Bigger fish are being taken on green crabs but the key to the fishing is catching the last of the incoming—slack water and the first of the ebb. A few flounder being picked at the Thumb along with some sea bass. Also some nice blackfish being taken by those fishing tight to the rocks at the Thumb. Lots of wind again this week resulted in no offshore news.

Jim Romano at **Peppy's Bait and Tackle** in **East Islip** said that blackfishing remains good on Kismet Reef. On Tuesday, the private boat 'Jo Eds Ace' returned with a dozen blacks. Among the catch was a 6 pounder taken by Joann Wolf

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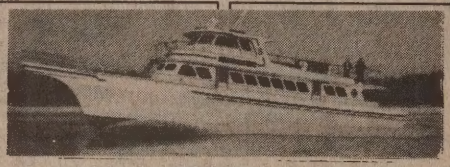

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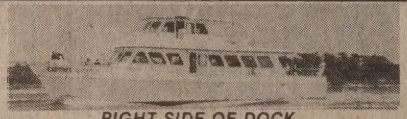

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THE Fisherman

and a 5 pounder taken by Kenny Kuhns. Bob Howard weighed in a 12 pound blue that he took on the Fire Island Reef over the weekend. Locally, snappers are gone and crabs have slowed at the docks but are plentiful in the bay and in the Sore Thumb Pocket. Many are being taken on hook and line by flounder fishermen.

Over at **Smokey's Bait and Tackle** in **Bay Shore**, Carl Miller reported that despite Sunday's heavy rains, there was some real good catches of blackfish made at Kismet and the Sore Thumb. He also looked over a fine catch of sea bass made by a private boatman who anchored up tight to the Sore Thumb rocks. The Fire Island Reef continues to produce good numbers of sea bass along with blackfish and porgies whenever the weather cooperates. Some big bass up into the low 40s livelined this week on eels at the inlet. Still very good crabbing on traps, rings and hook and line at Dickerson Channel and in the Sore Thumb Pocket. The only real bright spot for offshore fishermen of late concerned some real good bluefin tuna action at the Bacardi on Saturday. Plenty of fish up to 100 pounds were taken by chunkers there. Speaking of tuna, Carl had it from reliable sources that the Mud Hole has been consistently producing giants but plenty of bad weather has kept many boatmen from getting in on the action.

Capt. Neil Delanoy of the **Bay Shore** open boat **Laura Lee** relayed word via the marine operator that he was enjoying very good blackfishing early Monday morning (Columbus Day). He reported good action all week with the exception of Saturday with plenty of fish in the 3-5 pound range making up the catches. Sunday saw about 20 fares account for approximately 250 tog.

Capt. George Tweedy of the **Captree** open boat **Capt. Scotty 3** noted that he is now sailing night bluefish trips on Friday and Saturday only. Sailing time is 7PM. This past week saw super bluefishing every trip on the Patchogue Grounds and on a

Stephan Lipari used a whole butterfish to take this pool winning 16.4 lb. blue during a 9-28 trip aboard the "Speedy VII."

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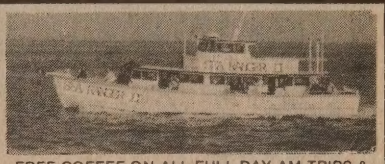
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couple of inshore wrecks. Bigger fish dominated the fishing on the wrecks with most of the fish on Patchogue ranging anywhere from 2 to 8 pounds.

Noel Kappauf of **Captree Bait and Tackle** reported on the efforts of the Swanson family over the weekend. Katie, Stacy and Richie Sr. & Jr. put away a fair amount of tautog on Kismet Reef over the two days. Thirteen year old Katie managed to put away an 8.6 pound bulldog while Richie Jr. clicked with a 7.12 pounder. Some nice blackfish also being taken from the shore. On Sunday, Thomas Land weighed in a 7.2 pound black that he took from the Robert Moses shore. Ferinando Maingenti nailed a 5.13 pound tog from the same area on Saturday. Noel heard of some decent blackfish taken from the Robert Moses Fishing Piers on the weekend with quality rather than quantity the rule. For boatmen, Noel thought that the week had been producing smaller blacks of late but good numbers of them. Bluefishing remained very good over the weekend on the Patchogue Grounds.

John Gattuso at **Augie's Bait and Tackle** in **Babylon** said that the slow start to the flounder season continued this week despite the colder temperatures. However, blackfishing remained pretty good at Kismet and crabbing has been excellent all over the bay on hook and line and in traps. Some nice bass being clam chummed and livelined at the R.M. Bridge and the Inlet area. John reminded that the shop is well stocked with live eels.

Charlie Schaefer of **Charlie's Bait and Tackle** fame reported some flounder fishing getting started in the State Channel along with a mix of sea bass, porgies and some blackfish. On Sunday, Doug Poulin worked the Kismet Reef to the tune of 38 blackfish. Blackfishing was also very good in the Oak Beach area during the week with one private boat returning with a catch of 68 blacks.

Over at **Lindenhurst Bait and Tackle**, Mike Andreani noted a quiet weekend as a result of Saturday's wind and Sunday's rain. Flounder fishing has been very slow with a few porgies and sea bass mixed with them in the State Channel. There has been a fair pick of blackfish at Kismet, the Construction Dock and the bridges. Some nice bass being livelined in the inlet area on bunker and eels. The best news concerns lots of crabs being taken in the bay on hook and line by flounder fishermen and also in traps. Many a flounder trip is being salvaged by boatmen prudent enough to bring along a couple of crab traps.

From **Amity Harbor**, Bob Rose of **Bob's Bait and Tackle** reported a pretty quiet weekend but noted there were some good blackfish scores made on fiddlers at the Wantagh Bridges even on rainy Sunday. Fred Walters and his crew aboard the 'Reel Affair' kept 30 blacks on both Saturday and Sunday and also returned lots of smaller fish. Bob

High Tide Tables

How to use tide tables: To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion table. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that area station above. Example: Shinnecock Inlet . . . −0 50 is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." −0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	BREAKWATER HARBOR AM	BREAKWATER HARBOR PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGEPORT AM	BRIDGEPORT PM	NEWPORT AM	NEWPORT PM	DATE
THURS.	2:25	2:40	3:25	3:55	3:20	3:35	4:45	4:55	7:00	7:20	6:10	6:30	2:35	3:00	10/15
FRI.	3:30	3:40	4:25	4:50	4:20	4:35	5:45	5:50	7:55	8:15	7:05	7:25	3:35	4:00	10/16
SAT.	4:30	4:45	5:25	5:40	5:20	5:30	6:35	6:40	8:45	9:05	8:00	8:15	4:30	4:50	10/17
SUN.	5:30	5:35	6:10	6:30	6:10	6:25	7:15	7:25	9:30	9:50	8:45	9:05	5:20	5:35	10/18
MON.	6:15	6:25	6:55	7:10	6:55	7:05	7:50	8:05	10:05	10:20	9:25	9:45	6:00	6:20	10/19
TUES.	6:55	7:05	7:30	7:50	7:35	7:45	8:20	8:40	10:30	10:45	10:05	10:25	6:45	7:00	10/20
WED.	7:30	7:45	8:10	8:30	8:05	8:20	8:55	9:20	10:45	10:10	10:45	11:05	7:25	7:40	10/21
THURS.	8:10	8:20	8:50	9:05	8:40	8:55	9:30	9:55	11:15	11:45	11:20	11:45	8:00	8:20	10/22

On Sandy Hook

STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	−0 01
Red Bank, Navesink River	+1 48
Long Branch	−0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	−0 18
Shark River Basin	+0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	−0 12
Seaside Park	−0 33
Mantoloking bridge	+5 34
TOMS RIVER	+4 37
Waretown	+2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	−0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+2 33
Beach Haven	+1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	−0 01
Seven Islands	+0 12
Graveling Point	+1 05
Mullica River	+1 55
Grassy Bay	+1 08
ABSECON INLET	+0 14
Atlantic City Pier	−0 26
Great Egg Harbor Inlet	+0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+0 44
CORSON INLET	+0 09
TOWNSENDS INLET	+0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+0 45
Cape May Harbor	−0 02
Rehobeth Beach	−0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+0 41
SHINNECOCK INLET	−0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	−0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Hart's Cove	+1 30
Pontunk Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	−0 38
Democrat Point	−0 38
Coast Guard Station	−0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville (Brown Creek)	+3 39
Heckscher State Park	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	−0 19
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+[illegible]
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	−0[illegible]
Long Beach Bridge	[illegible]
ROCKAWAY INLET	0 00
Beach Channel Bridge	+0 38
J.F.K. Airport	+0 26

On Bridgeport

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	+0 08
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Hbr. entrance	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	+0 05
Herod Point	−0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 05
Horton Point	−0 20
Truman Beach	−0 42
Falkner Island	−0 13
Sachem Head	−0 10
Branford Harbor	−0 07
New Haven Harbor entrance	−0 08
Milford Harbor	−0 07
Stratford, Housatonic River	+0 27
Shelton, Housatonic River	+1 36
Black Rock Harbor entrance	−0 03
Saugatuck River entrance	−0 01
South Norwalk	+0 10
Greens Ledge	−0 01
Stamford	+0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+0 06
Greenwich	+0 02

On New London

Orient	+0 36
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Three Mi. Hbr., Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land, Napeague Bay	−0 14
Montauk Inlet	−0 25
Montauk Point, north side	−1 13
Niantic	+1 20
Stonington, Fishers Is. Sound	−0 33
Noank, Mystic River ent.	−0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove entrance	−0 01
Norwich	+0 12
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook Jetty	+1 10
Lyme, highway bridge	+1 24
Essex	+1 38
East Haddam	+2 41
Higganum Creek	+2 54

On Willets Point

Little Neck Bay	−0 10
Execution Light	0 06
Manhasset Bay	−0 01
Hempstead Harbor	−0 11
City Island	−0 03
Rye Beach	−0 28
Port Chester	−0 09
Mamaroneck	−0 08
New Rochelle	−0 24
Davids Island	−0 02

On Breakwater Harbor

CAPE MAY POINT	−0 10
Miami Beach	+0 17
East Pt., Maurice River Cove	+0 53
Egg Island Point	+0 33
Cape Henlopen	−0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+0 09
Mispillion River entrance	+0 33

On New York

Jersey City	+0 07
George Washington Bridge	+0 46
Spuyten Duyvil, W/RR bridge	+0 58
Ossining	+1 53
Peekskill	+2 24
West Point	+3 16
Newburgh	+3 42

On Newport

Sakonnet	−1 10
Tiverton (between bridges)	+0 21
Beavertail Point	−0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Point	+1 10
Bristol	+1 10
Warren	+0 21
Nayatt Point	+0 12
Pawtucket, Seekonk River	+0 21
East Greenwich	+0 16
Wickford	+0 12
Narragansett Pier	−0 08
Point Judith Hbr. of Refuge	−0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+0 05
Block Island (Old Harbor)	−0 14
Watch Hill Point	+0 44

Sunrise/Sunset

DAY / DATE:	RISE:	SET:
THU. 10/15	7:12	6:19
FRI. 10/16	7:13	6:17
SAT. 10/17	7:14	6:16
SUN. 10/18	7:15	6:15
MON. 10/19	7:16	6:13
TUE. 10/20	7:17	6:12
WED. 10/21	7:18	6:11

Moonrise/Moonset

DAY / DATE:	RISE:	SET:
THU. 10/15	—	3:15PM
FRI. 10/16	12:40AM	3:45PM
SAT. 10/17	1:45AM	4:05PM
SUN. 10/18	2:45AM	4:30PM
MON. 10/19	3:50AM	4:50PM
TUE. 10/20	4:55AM	5:10PM
WED. 10/21	5:55AM	5:30PM

Moon Phases

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	Last Qtr.
10/22	10/29	11/5	11/13

The Original Knight SOLUNAR TABLES

The schedule of solunar periods below will help plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during the time when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for 1½ to 2 hours thereafter, and are in the bold typeface. The minor periods are shorter in duration and the lighter typeface.

	AM Minor	AM Major	PM Minor	PM Major
Thurs.	12:15	7:05	12:35	6:45
Fri.	12:55	7:05	1:15	7:30
Sat.	1:45	7:45	1:55	8:10
Sun.	2:25	8:25	2:35	8:45
Mon.	3:00	9:05	3:15	9:25
Tues.	3:49	9:40	3:50	10:00
Wed.	4:15	10:15	4:25	10:30
Thurs.	4:45	10:55	5:05	11:25

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BRAND NEW, 75' SUPERFAST SUPERCRUISER

CAPT. LOU FLEET

75' ★ Ultra beamy for stability & comfort ★ Full galley ★ Heated hand rails ★ Large heated cabin
State of the art electronics ★ Large open sundeck ★ Custom built with the fisherman in mind

FLOUNDER
All day on 75' Capt. Lou VI
7:30 AM - 3:30 PM
— Sailing Daily —

FLOUNDER
Two ½ Day Trips on 65' Capt. Lou V
8 AM - 12 PM & 1 PM - 5 PM
— Sailing Daily —

FREE BAIT
SR. CIT. RATES WEEKDAYS
MOONLIGHT CRUISES & NITE CHARTERS AVAIL.

JUMBO OCEAN FLUKE
6:30 A.M. WED.

CAPT. MIKE DANON 516-766-5716 • 516-FR8-9598
FROM POOP DECK DOCK, WOODCLEFT CANAL, FREEPORT

EDELMAN'S PRO TESTED

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FREEPORT'S LARGEST & FASTEST 85' ALUMINUM SUPERCRUISER
BLUES 6:30 A.M. THURS. THRU SUN. • 7 P.M. FRI. & SAT. NIGHTS

Comfortable Lounge Seating • Large Sundeck • Snack Bar • Courteous, Efficient Crew
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BOOK NOW: DAY/NIGHT BLUES - FLUKE

Oct. 1, 1986 - 51 Boated Tuna ★ Oct. 29, 1986 - 62 Boated Tuna

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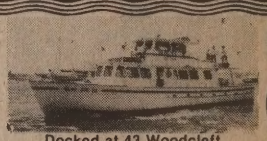

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FISHING ALL SPECIES IN SEASON
FLOUNDER • MACKEREL • FLUKE • PORGIES • SEABASS • BLACKS • DAY & NIGHT BLUES • COD
Lady J Charter Boats - 60' & 65' Fiberglass ★ Fast ★ Comfortable ★ All Bait, Tackle & Ice Furnished ★ Latest Electronics ★ ★ Up to 172 Pass. Cap. ★ Large Group Specialists ★ Moonlight Cruises ★ Twin Diesel Power
★ SAILING FROM FREEPORTS BOATMEN'S ASSOCIATION DOCK, GUY LOMBARDO AVENUE, FREEPORT N.Y. 11520 ★
CAPTAIN PAT (516) 825-5727 ★ CAPTAIN ALLEN (516) 826-6197

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DOLPHIN for Fall, Winter & All '88 Trips!

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SEA BASS • PORGIES • BLACKS 7 A.M. (FULL DAY) • FREE BAIT
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4 TRIPS IN '86 OVER 250 TUNA BOATED

TUNA ★ SPECIAL OFFSHORE TRIPS ★ TUNA
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7 PM
EVERY NIGHT

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Offshore-Canyon
Shark • Tuna • Blues

NICKI B

Fast, Fully Equipped Sportfisherman
—All Custom Tackle Furnished—
Capt. Al Bala (212) 793-7920

reported plenty of big blues being taken on live bunker by boatmen drifting near the 2nd Wantagh bridge most of the day on Sunday. Flounder have been very slow but crabbing has been excellent out in the bay with traps and baited hooks. Just a few being taken from the docks however.

Scott Molnar from **Edelman's** in **Farmingdale** knew of good blackfish catches made in the bay on Kismet Reef and outside on the F.I. Ocean Reef this week. He also knew that there was still plenty of good bluefish action underway on the Patchogue Grounds with fish being jigged and baited. The only offshore news concerned Capt. Frank Signorelli and the Seaford charter boat **3 Sea Sons** which busted off a 500 plus pound giant tuna while fishing west of the Virginia during the week.

West End REPORT

with Stu Miller

Can you believe another one of those weeks of unrelenting cruddy weather fishing-wise, with wind and rain and an occasional nice day during the week, nothing you could plan a trip around. Nevertheless, many people and boats sailed and the catches were, for the most part, quite good, whether fishing inside or on the deeper water wrecks and most areas in-between. Bluefish have been astounding, of course, outside and also appearing in immense numbers this week in all the back waters, creeks, channels, etc. Excellent mixed bags inside with flounder still a little scarce, but several good showings noted. Best bet would continue to be blackfish, mainly at the Meadowbrook and Wantagh bridges, with strong catches of blacks and sea bass on inshore wrecks. The Rockaway jetties have been producing some super blackfish catches.

WEST END BAYS/ JONES INLET

Over at **Wanser's Tackle Shop in Seaford**, Lon says the final blast of fluking was super Monday through Saturday in Ned's Creek, Merrick. It may be over by the time you read this report, but it may be worth a try. Great blackfishing at the Big M, the Big M best, with 5 to 6 lbers. not uncommon, outgoing tide working best. Loads of blues to 17 lbs. all over the bay on live bunker, plugs, tins, etc. Best has been in the State Channel between the Big M and 3rd Wantagh.

FREEPORT

NOW BOOKING 1987 DATES
COMPETITIVE RATES
APUS III
42' DELUXE HATTERAS SPORTFISHERMAN • 6 PASS. LIMIT
ALL CUSTOM TACKLE FURNISHED • FULL ELECTRONICS
BEGINNERS WELCOMED • FULLY AIR CONDITIONED
• FISH IN COMFORT & SAFETY •
SHARK ★ TUNA ★ BLUES ★ BAY ★ CANYON
Capt. Mike Miller (516) 598-1351 Home • (516) 378-9150 Boat

Fast 31' Bertram Fiberglass Charterboat
Twin Cat Power • Full Electronics
MIRAGE 1 - 6 Passengers

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Canyon • Ocean • Bay
All Bait, Tackle, Ice Furnished
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Capt. Mike Fanning 516-326-7646

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BRAND NEW DIESEL POWERED
3 SEA SONS

The all new 3-Sea-Sons is a custom Morgan designed 31' diesel sport fiserman, fully equipped for all your fishing needs, from its fast cruising speed to its large open cockpit and seating for six.
Reserve Now. Personalized Big Game Fishing Adventures.
SHARK ★ TUNA ★ MARLIN ★ BLUES
FLOUNDER ★ FLUKE ★ CODFISH ★ BLACKFISH
Complete Marine Electronics - Accom. for 6
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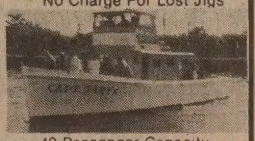
FOR CHARTER — 60' TWIN DIESEL
CAPT. GARY II
No Charge For Lost Jigs
ALL TYPES OF OCEAN & BAY FISHING
•
Day & Nite Blues
Flounder
Wreck Fishing
Seabass, Blacks



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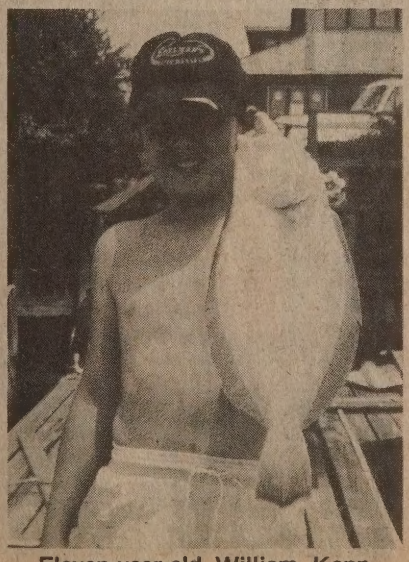

Eleven-year-old William Kopp caught this fine 4 lb. fluke in the Freeport area back on July 1. Subscriber photo.

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6 Pass. Limit
JENNY II
36' NEW CUSTOM "RUNAWAY" • TWIN VOLVO DIESELS
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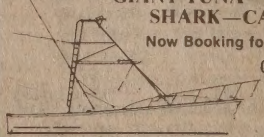

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Winner '87 Freeport Bluefish Tournament
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MARINE DIESEL & REGULAR GAS
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SENIORS ONLY: WED. ½ Price on Boat & Motor
BAIT • REFRESHMENTS • GAS • LOCKER RENTALS AVAIL.
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FLOUNDER • BLACKFISH • FLUKE
SEABASS • BLUES • PORGIES
Bait • Tackle ★ On W. Lake Dr., Montauk
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Peter Shkrutz with a 6.5 lb. fluke caught near the Marine Parkway Bridge back in July. Subscriber photo.

A fair pick of flatties at Four Corners, 3rd Wantagh and Big M. Stripers at the bridges on live bunker or live baby blackfish with best areas 3rd Wantagh, Black Banks and the Big M with an occasional keeper bass in the catch.

From Skip at **Old Harbour Marina** we hear of lots of BCCs caught this week in Massapequa Cove, incoming water best. Loads of blackfish mostly 1 to 1½ lbers. plus a lot of 3 to 4 lbers. at the 2nd and 3rd Wantagh Bridges. Bluefish still all over the place with Skip weighing in a 19 lber. caught on a live bunker from the Jones Beach piers. A few late fluke caught from Black Banks to Merrick in the 16 inch class and thick.

Mike at **Causeway Tackle in Wantagh** spoke of continuing very good blackfishing during the week at the 2nd Wantagh and Big M. Fiddlers caught best with fish to 4 lbs. Largest was a 6½ lber. weighed in this week. Low slack and the beginning of the flood have been best. Loads of 8 to 15 lb. blues throughout state channel, at the Merrick mountain, cement block and the ABB on live bunker with best catches being made on overcast days. Gordon Leonard bagged a 35 lb. 8 oz. striper Thursday in Moriches Bay on a plug, while Lou Lombari put away a 35 lb. 12 oz. bass taken in the ABB area. This fish was the largest of five keepers taken on that one trip. Blues excellent at Cholera on bunker and butters, fish 3 to 15 lbs. Flounder catches have been on the picky side.

Scott at **Merrick Tackle in Bellmore** knew of blues caught this week at Field 6 on Creek Chub poppers and floating Rapalas, blues 6 to 12 lbs. Customers have been catching plenty of blackfish at the Big M and W3. Some flounder and porgies caught this week at Nick's Point and the S-Turn. Lots of big blues caught inside this week on live bunker.

Over in **Freeport**, the **Lady J Fleet** continued blasting away at the big bluefish schools. Just a short ride from the inlet said the skipper, with bait and chum doing the trick. This week saw trips sailed for: Quick Line Corp., Freeman Mgmt., Henry's Bar, New Hyde Park, Albert Ashford Bldg. Mgrs., Marine Corp., Garden City, and Bob Hawk, ITT.

Aboard Captain Richie Kessinger's **StarStream II** it was strong solid bluefishing on every trip the boat sailed this week. Fish have been running 2 to 12 lbs. with occasional alligators, with action a short ride from the inlet on bait and chum. There have been occasional bonito and albies mixed in. Richie emphasized that the action is hot and there's plenty of room on all trips. Please see ad for the boat's new sailing schedule.

We hear from the **Captain Lou Fleet** that the Wednesday jumbo fluke trips are continuing, as the big fish continue to move out. The inside flounder trips have been catching better numbers now with the cooler weather. Keith Best of Uniondale had 25, Joe

POINT LOOKOUT

"The Ultimate in Party Boat Fishing"

THE BRAND NEW
MISS POINT LOOKOUT II
FLOUNDER TWO HALF DAY TRIPS DAILY 7:30 A.M. - NOON & 1 P.M. - 5:30 P.M.
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• Ladies Accommodations
FREE WORMS, CLAMS, & TACKLE ON ALL ½ DAY TRIPS
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DIRECTIONS: South on Meadowbrook Pkwy., Exit M10 to traffic Light, Make Left turn into Marina
TACKLE BUSTER BLUES — 7 P.M. — FRI., SAT., & SUN.
FEATURING CAPT. BOB "BLOOD & GUTS" NAGY

CAPT. STEVE- 516-795-9683 • CAPT. DENNIS-516-481-2841
FREE BAIT AND TACKLE
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FLOUNDER 2 Trips Daily 7 AM - 12 Noon & 1 PM - 5:30 PM
Full Electronics•Large Sundeck•Full Galley•Courteous, Efficient Crew
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Full Elect. - All International Rods, Reels & Tackle
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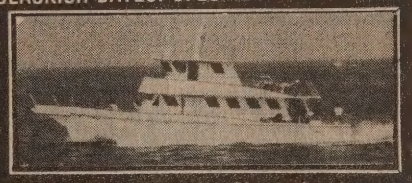

the Mechanic bagged a 1½ lber., regular Ted put away a 2 lber., Charlie Brower took a 1¼ lber. Catches are being rounded out with some sea bass and porgies.

Bob at the **Freeport Boatmens Association** noted that the **Super Spray II** and other Association charter boats fishing ocean bottom have been getting very good mixed bag catches of blues, blacks, sea bass and porgies along with a few small cod showing up each trip. Boats fishing Cholera for blues have been catching great said Bob.

JR at **Sea Isle Sports** just back from a restful vacation fixing up his house called the local blackfishing excellent at all bridges and jetties on fiddlers and green crab. The offshore wrecks are producing good catches of sea bass and blacks. Flounder have just been fair. Bluefish have been just about clogging up the canals, bay and channels, there are so many of them. Best catches are being made on live bunker or fresh dead bunker. Blues are also being caught off the beaches, along with stripers. Try fishing nights for exceptionally good catches inside with bunker on blues, bass and weaks.

Over in **Point Lookout**, Tom at **Scotty's Fishing Station** spoke of lots of blues being caught in 30 feet of water, mostly by those dragging umbrellas on wire. Reynolds Channel still providing mixed bag catches of flounder, sea bass, porgies and blacks, while the bridges are yielding strong catches of blacks and sea bass.

We hear from the charter boat **Marie III** that Tuesday's trip for AT&T had excellent catches of blues, 5 to 15 lbs. on bait and chum at Cholera with 15 people decking roughly 200 fish. Saturday's trip for the Petro Oil Corp. saw over 250 blues caught, followed by fishing inside in the afternoon for a mixed catch of sea bass, porgies, ling, blacks, flounder and fluke. On this trip flounder went up to 2 lbs.

Captain Dennis of the **Night Hawk** said the floundering this week was hot and cold. On good trips, catches ran 10 to 15 keepers a man and on a slow trip, 6 to 8 keepers a man, speaking of Monday through Friday. Catches were filled out with sea bass, porgies and blackfish. On Saturday's charter, the Winwood group had a very good catch of flounder to 2 lbs. plus sea bass, blacks and porgies with 9 year old James Winwood taking 32 mixed fish. Sunday's trip for the Lynbrook

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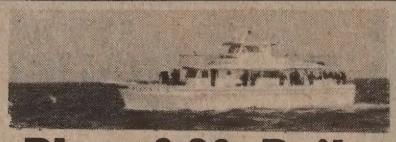

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Fire Dept. had very good flounder action behind Long Beach and Island Park, 10 to 20 fish a man, fish to 2 lbs. along with a mixed catch of porgies, sea bass and fluke.

Charlie at **Beckmann's Tackle in Lynbrook** told of the excellent blackfishing at all the bridges and jetties with one customer during the week having a fabulous catch fishing the 59th Street Rockaway jetty on fiddlers and greens loading up on blacks to 5 lbs. Blues all over the place said Charlie including the channels, the bay and outside. The blues are following the bunker schools inside and these blues are gigantic. A few large flounder at the cement block in Reynolds and at the feeder creeks going into Reynolds.

A call from Captain Ronnie Lepper of the **Atlantic Beach** charter boat **Kim** told of good offshore tuna fishing over wrecks on school bluefin tuna. Some sporadic giants at the Mud Hole. Big bluefish locally on spoons and umbrellas close in. The October moon saw a lot of bass caught in the New York Bight through Wednesday. Ron says he has some bass dates open for late October and for the November moon.

NEW YORK BIGHT

A call to **Skippy's Bait and Tackle in East Rockaway** found Skip optimistic on an improvement in the flounder fishing which was up this past week, best at Pearsall's, Oil City and Hog Channel. Blackfishing continued good at the bridges and rock piles. Lots of blues and big stripers under the bunker schools throughout the bays. Snappers and BCCs in Bay Park and at Pete's Clam Bar.

Artie at **Cross Bay Bait and Tackle in Howard Beach** was happy with reports of lots of big blues being caught throughout Jamaica Bay and off the three bridges. He said once you find the bunker schools, you're

Angelo Pignataro and the 298 lb. swordfish he caught at Hudson Canyon during an overnighter aboard the "Ocean Motion."

in, both live-lining and chunking on 12 to 13 lb. class blues. Artie himself had a couple of these bruisers during the week. Blackfish action very good on fiddlers or green crab on any moving tide, all bridges (north and south channel and Marine Parkway). Good flounder catches on blood and sand worms at Silver Hole.

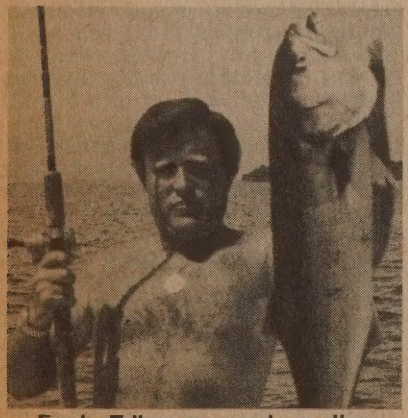
Sailing out of **Sheepshead Bay**, the **Zephyr V** had good catches of blacks and sea bass Saturday, but it was mostly blackfish Sunday in the afternoon with tog to 9 lbs. This was despite the tough weather conditions. There sure are a lot of fish around, said the Skipper. Also some nice sea bass have been mixed in with the catch.

Captain John of the **America Fleet** said that his blackfishing has been good this past week on the days they sailed working from the eastern reefs through Seabright with catches of 7 to 20 fish a man, fish running 2 to 9 lbs.

Captain Walt of the **Flamingo III** advises that now is the time to dig into the bluefish while they are jumbo size and super plentiful. All trips this week loaded up on 8 to 20 lbers. mostly on bait, but at times also on jigs. Some albacore also mixed up in the catch as were a good number of striped bass, many approaching the 33 inch limit.

We were saddened to learn of the passing of Joe Lauro, who along with brothers Neil and Sal owned **Stella Maris Bait and Tackle**, which has been a Sheepshead Bay institution for as long as most of us can remember. Our condolences to Joe's family and friends. He will be missed.

The Wee Willie report out of **Mike's Tackle** was of plenty of blackfish at Seabright, big tog with some porgies mixed in. Jumbo blues, all you wanted at 17, Cholera and Farms this week on bait or jigs. Fluking was a good item on the weekend, said Wee Willie as they continue their offshore journey. Flounder in Jamaica Bay have been decent while some bass are being taken at the round house on worm and also on clam bait and chum.



Fred Edleman used a live bunker to boat this 13 lb. blue in Cold Spring Harbor. It was weighed at Causeway Bait and Tackle in Wantagh.

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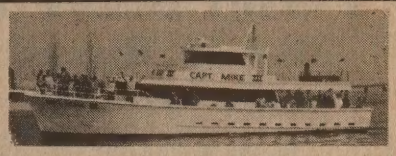

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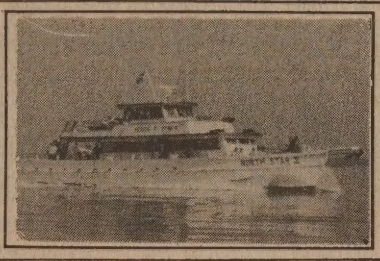

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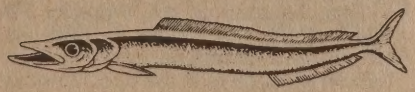

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North Shore REPORT
with Marty Carrell

Despite weather forecasts that were threatening for both Saturday and Sunday, the opening days of the Columbus Day weekend were quite fishable, at least until Sunday afternoon. Those who dared to sail with small craft did well on tautog and flounder, while party boats filled out across the entire spectrum.

WESTERN SOUND

John DiCuffa at **Jack's Bait** on **City Island** just finished weighing an 11 pound white chinned male tautog for John Funicello when we called Sunday. The bulldog was taken off Execution Light. Larter tog were in deeper water beyond 25 foot depths. The **Glen Cove Sport Shop** was still seeing plenty of bluefish, according to John Cacciola. The best bite of the weekend occurred at Pryble for fish over 12 pounds, and the biggest slammer of the week tipped the scale at 15½. Flounder were also reported locally.

Pete Pearson of the **Klondike VIII** was fishing for blues off Eatons, Lloyds and Stamford with the best fish on most days in the 8 to 12 pound range. Pete is hoping to have more shots at truly large fish coming out from harbor areas, too. The **Reliable** from **Flushing** will be switching to tautog at midweek; skipper Carl Giangrande has been traveling up to Eatons and Stamford for scup and tautog and hopes to see larger tog as waters cool.

Both the **Apache** and the **North Star** from **City Island** will be stocking hard baits for blackfishing when they switch from porgies this week. Dom Cerbone fished inshore areas around Norwalk, Green Ledge and Darien with good results over the weekend, while Pete Anderson had a pretty good mix of scup and tautog off Stamford and Westport. Saturday was an exceptional day and the boat also fished east of Lloyds Neck.

NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND

The Cedars at **Huntington Prop** reported tautog action around Target Rock, Buoy 24C. Frank and Marion Ptorcinski had three big blackfish on the scales, including a 10½ pounder taken by Marion. Bob Pace took a 40 inch 36 pound bass on a bottle plug, and Tom and Jack McCallan and Kevin Keating released three fish in that same class, fish of 35, 38 and 43 inches. The Cedar Brothers themselves trolled and released twelve bass to 24 inches on 12 worms in two hours. George Valentine at **Four Winds** suspects that bluefishing inside is just about over even though outside jigging can be quite good. Sunday's east winds turned the bottom fishing sour, but a couple of marina docks were producing flounder to ¾ pound. **Bowman's** in **Northport** figured that Eatons Lighthouse and Makamah were good bets now for tautog, while Mel Fleischmann at **Greenlawn Sports** like Cold Spring Harbor and Sand City. Early in the week, Fleischmann weighed a 20 pound slammer bluefish taken near Duck Island.

Warren's in **Selden** told us that Red and Sean Collins enjoyed some first class blackfishing on crabs off Cranes Neck, putting an 8 and 9½ pounder on the store scales. Oldfield and Cedar Beach had smaller fish. Fred Laager at **Edelman's** told us that there were still another couple of weeks of bluefish aciton left around Nissequogue with action on fish to 12 pounds on poppers inside Mount Sinai Harbor. Even in the rain on Sunday, Ralph Davenport had 10 livery skiffs out, and the results were good on scup all the way to 1¾ pounds. On days when you could get there, the Middle Grounds had tautog and bluefish. Flounder were worth a try with waters beginning to cool.

Tony Taverna on the charter boat **Morning Star** showed Wayne Speer and his father in law the game of porgy fishing on the weekend. The group took some forty medium to large scup and then jigged a couple of dozen bluefish.

The **Port Jeff Ace** has been carrying very well when forecasts are good. Fishing was good through Sunday mid-day with plenty of porgies (only a few in that 2 pound class) and some smaller tautog. The boat also added some bluefish to the catch on Saturday, waiting for the tide to switch around 2PM. The waiting paid off with a good catch on the bottom oce the

northwest wind and outgoing water came together.

NORTH FORK

Nick Cyprus at **Warren's Tackle Center** in **Aquebogue** reported a pair of nice bass bucktailed by Jim and John Danowski, linesiders of 29 and 42 pounds that came in a catch of some 300 pounds of bluefish. The best bet for blues east of Mattituck Inlet is trolling blind, then jigging when choppers are located.

Ace Cottral at **Pleasures of the Sea** had 6 big bass in the Full Moon Contest. Bob McGinnis took a 45¾ pounder on the **Nancy Ann** to win the tourney, while fish of 44¾ and 44½ also taken on Richie Jensen's boat, were runners up. The Sluiceway was loaded with big blues while Plum Gut was "stacked from top to bottom" with choppers. Tony Loperfido took some friends west of Orient on the **Fishalot** for 130 pounds of tautog from 3½ to 9 pounds and there were still scup in Petty's Bight.

Louise Kitsch at the **AP White Bait Shop** weighed bass of 29 and 36 pounds over the weekend. She was pleased with the flounder fishing off Orient and the mix of bottom fish off the Gull Islands.

Forecasts made fishing out of Mattituck Inlet dicey, but skiffs from **Charlie's Mattituck Fishing Station** and from the **Mattituck Inlet Station** caught some large scup on the drift in deep water off the firing range. The biggest scup of the weekend went five to a pail, and one enormous fish weighed three pounds 11 ounces. The Petersens will be open until around November 22.

Larry Ciccotto of the **Prime Time III** called to say that the fishing had been good all week on drops around Orient and west of Plum Island, with flounder, tautog and sea bass filling a bucket or more per fare! Some folks started second buckets early on Saturday. Flounder sizes are typical one pound flatties, but an occasional eighteen inch giant to 3 pounds shows up now and again. Except for October 28, a day for wich all tickets have been sold, Ciccotto will be sailing daily through month's end. On November 2, the boat will shift to Friday, Saturday and Sunday sailings until the last Sunday of November.

John Rainis of the **Sea Star** has been seeing plenty of nice tautog in the 6 to 8 pound class on his inshore drops with scup beginning to drop off in shallower waters. He feels that Fishers Island will be worth a look about 2 weeks from now. Meanwhile, Dave Brennan has been angling down to the Connecticut side of the Sound in 75 to 90 foot depths with the **Peconic Star II**. Brennan called the porgy action that his boat and Larry Porter's **Brand X** have been enjoying "phenomenal...super...the best five days in a row that we've ever had." It seems astounding to fill buckets for 61 anglers on a Sunday easterly, but that was the case on the Peconic Star. Of 25 tautog that came aboard, all but one or two were taken on worms and clams, including the pool winning nine pounder.

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Surf REPORT with Fred Golofaro

A good scattering of big blues continued to keep the surf set busy this week. There were also enough big bass around to spice interest. Montauk's torrid bluefishing slipped a few notches in consistency but there was still some very good but spotty action at the Point. A northeaster that began late Saturday night and was still blowing Sunday morning made South Shore inlets and adjacent beaches a good bet for many casters.

Out at **Montauk**, Johnny Kronuch at **Johnny's Tackle Shop** said that after Friday's excellent bluefishing, the fishing missed several beats on Saturday and Sunday. Things really quieted down as a result of strong northeast winds Saturday and Sunday nights. The blow kept most casters from making any serious attempts after dark on either night, though there were exceptions. Richie Simmons, his son Rich and Paul Smith worked the Point Sunday night and managed to take 20 school bass on plugs.

On Friday night, Bob Gruber used yellow darters and white Needlefish plugs to take 5 bass to 10 pounds and several blues to 9 pounds at the Point. He took most of the fish under the Light.

To the west, Thom Speckenbach of **Speck's Bait and Tackle** in **Southampton** reported that the surf was alive with action in the Shinnecock area over the weekend. Lots of blues and bass including a few keepers were taken from the County Line to the East Jetty on Saturday,

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Sunday and Monday. Most of the fish were being taken on poppers and swimming plugs. John Berkowski nailed a double header of bass on a dropper and Bomber on Columbus Day morning. The highlight of the weekend was the 47 pound cow taken by Chris Wicks along the Southampton oceanfront Sunday morning. Chris nailed the big striper on a red and yellow Striper Swiper which he had just recently found lying on the beach.

Paul Graniello of **J&J Tackle** in **Patchogue** reported a busy week for the surf set with Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday apparently being good days to have been on the beach. Paul also reminded that Smith Point County Park is now open to the inlet after having been closed for most of the summer. Several casters wasted no time in cashing in on the body of stripers that has resided near Moriches Inlet most of the season. On Wednesday night, the first night the beach was open, Patchogue Fishing Club member Richard Gearity and Jerry Gearity worked their way east. Using darters the pair landed several big blues to 16 pounds while Richard beached a 36 pound bass and Jerry settled for a 15 pounder. The fish were found along the open beach west of the inlet. The next night, Patchogue Fishing Club member Bob Antici along with Ray Souter used bait to take a pile of big blues on the same stretch of beach. They also reported seeing 4 or 5 nice bass in the teens or 20s taken along the same stretch. Thursday evening saw Mike, John, Bill and Craig use popping plugs to nail a half dozen stripers to 31 inches along with a few small blues. They fished at Moriches Inlet. Paul knew that earlier in the week F.I.N.S. had enjoyed a shot of big blues with fish into the teens taken on plugs and bait. Saturday AM saw Billy Koebel and Jeff Sonderstedt treat a pair of upstaters to surf fishing at its finest. The group was part of a blitz of big blues at Democrat Point with all of the fish being taken on popping plugs. The blues ranged from 10 to 15 pounds. Back to F.I.N.S. for a second—Paul noted a good

spread of school bass taken along this shore during the week on teasers. Thomas Lafever checked in an 8 pound blue that he took on bait at Fire Island on Sunday. Paul also had the final standings of Sunday's Patchogue Fishing Club Surf Derby. First place was taken by Greg Maynard with a 12 pound blue. Bob Antici had an 11.7 pound chopper while Gary Maher took 3rd with a 9.12 pound blue.

Dave Canale at **J&R Sports Center** in **Oakdale** reported the Cedar Bar continues to produce a steady pick of blues. He noted the Bar was very good on Friday night between 6 and 8PM as he and Steve Brent were part of the action. The fish were being taken on bait. Concerning Parking Field 4, Dave knew of just a few blues being picked on tin and bait during the week.

Over at **Captree Bait and Tackle**, Noel Kappauf put a pair of respectable stripers on the scale over the long weekend. Peter Mabanta connected with a 24½ pound striper Saturday morning at Robert Moses. He used a small live blackfish. On Columbus Day morning, Glen Dielmann used an Atom Swimmer at Field 6 Jones Beach to take a 30.12 pound cow. A reminder that this is the big weekend for the Surf Bluefish Tournament. You can sign up until 8PM Friday at Captree or Jones Beach Bait and Tackle. Captree Bait and Tackle, which will be serving as Tournament Headquarters, will remain open throughout the weekend opening at 5:30 AM on Saturday and not closing until 7:30 PM on Sunday. Hot coffee and doughnuts will be available to participants in the contest during Saturday night. You can also get the latest update on the Contest Leaders and the shop will be well supplied with live eels, butterfish and bunker. Noel added that he hopes to have fresh bunker for the duration of the contest.

P.J. Smith, right, and his dad Paul, with the youngster's first salmon. The trophy chinook checked in at 30 lbs. and was taken from the Samon River near upstate Pulaski on salmon eggs.

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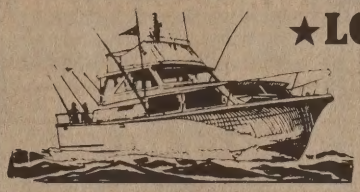

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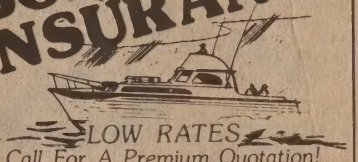

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Freshwater REPORT
with Tom Schlichter

Although some freshwater anglers may have already begun stowing their gear for next season, there are still plenty of fish to be had. Largemouth bass, pickerel and trout were all co-operative over the last week and some large fish were taken.

From **Beckman's Bait and Tackle, Lynbrook**, Bill Beckman reports a few anglers still picking small bass at Grant Park and Hempstead Lake. Most fish are taking night crawler baits but a few can still be coaxed with small plugs.

Over at **Causeway Bait and Tackle, Wantagh**, Mike nicoletti informs us that crappies and bluegills are taking worms fished near the bottom at the South Twin Lake. Bass fishing in this area has been inconsistent.

From Tom Healy at **Lindenhurst Bait and Tackle**, we heard that although a lot of night crawlers were sold this week few anglers reported back with any action.

As the season has cooled down, bass fishing has heated up on Lake Ronkonkoma, according to Fred Kruse of **Pine Grove Outfitters in Ronkonkoma.** This week witnessed some of the best catches recorded in recent weeks with several fish in the 5 to 6 lb. class checked in. The largest bass of the week was a 7 lber. which fell for a spinnerbait worked in a south side hole. Farmingville resident Nick Triolo was the lucky recipient and he released the lunker unharmed.

Trout fishing on the Connetquot River is well worth the effort, according to Dave Canale of **J&R Sports Center, Oakdale**. Rich Koska and Anthony Farewell of West Islip worked Deep Water Pond inside the park, combining for 13 brookies and one rainbow trout. All the fish were in the 1/2 to 2.5 lb. range.

A call to Paul Graniello of **J&J Bait and Tackle, Patchogue**, revealed a solid mix of pickerel and bass available to anglers working Patchogue Lake. Twelve-year-old Mike Dimarco used a spinnerbait to nail a 19 inch bass from shore while Tony Haviland clicked with a 3 lb. pickerel on Sunday. Tony's fish was later released. A few bass in the 2 to 3 lb. class can also be found in West Lake.

At the **Fisherman's Deli, Riverhead**, Mrs. Devlin noted that anglers took a nice mix of crappies, pickerel and catfish last week. Shop regulars Chester Green and Herbie Brown of the Bronx, stopped by to do some panfishing on Saturday. Aside from the expected mix of small sunnies and crappies, they lucked into a 16 lb. carp.

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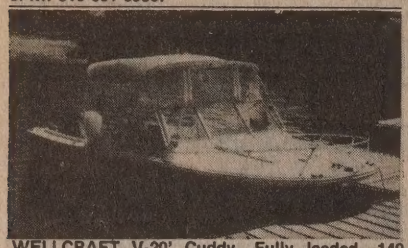

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1985 MARK TWAIN 21' Cuddy. 140 Mercruiser. Mint. Low hrs. Bought new in '86 as leftover. Many extras. 1986 Shorelander tandem trailer. Brakes, electric winch. Excl. family & fishing boat. $14,900. Days: 516-221-2948. Eves: 516-928-7636.

12' SEARS Aluminum boat & 7 hp motor. In very good cond. $200. 718-386-0789.

The Ultimate 21' Center Console. New 140 hp Suzuki w/SS prop, Armstrong brkt. Custom marine carpentry tackle center, custom SS railings. Teak covering boards, teak pulpit, fold down teak antenna arch. Full instrumentation, dual batt. Showroom cond. $14,500. 516-623-1639.

1982 28' BLACK FIN COMBI, 82-L diesels, tower, Rupp riggers, Si-Tex radar, Si-Tex Loran w/remote, Si-Tex recorder, Koden video sonar, fight chair, swim platform, new batt. Extra fuel. Canyon ready. Very clean. $61,000. Must sell; new boat coming. Days: 215-495-7166.

MERCURY OUTBOARDS
YEAR END Clearance on all 1987 motors at below wholesale prices. 2 hp-220 hp in stock. BAYVILLE MARINE, 516-628-8686.

25' CHRIS Lancer, flybridge, twin station. New 350 GM & Volvo 280. True Deep V, fast & dry. Full electronics. Outriggers. Mint. Many extras. Excl. offshore/inshore. Huge cockpit for fishing. Only $10,200. 924-9446.

1986 BAYLINER Trophy 25', flybridge, Bimini w/ full encl. 260 hp, 105 gal., 90 hrs. Transom plat., Lowrance, VHF, 10' beam, fish well. Full galley, head. Sleeps 6. AM/FM cassette. Mint. $43,000 invested for $32,000. Day: 475-2689. Eves: 475-8904.

EVINRUDE

NEW 1985, 1986, 1987 NEW
4-$459; 6-$611; 8-$711; 9.9-$959; 40-$1598; 48-$1948; 110-$2999; 140-$3999; 225-$4998. SEALAND MARINE, 48 Merrick Rd., Amity Harbor, NY 11701; 516-842-1242. FOB/WI. Ship anywhere.

28' COLUMBIA II—The Ultimate Fishing Boat. A chance to own a fully equip. 28' Sportfisherman. Turn the key & you're ready for sharks or any kind of fishing. The boat features tower w/full instrumentation, teak bow pulpit, teak transom platform & transom door. Powered by a Merc 260 hp FWC I/B w/170 gal. tank. In the deck are 2 big, insulated, flush mounted fish boxes. Accessories incl. Furuno 24 mi. radar, Robertson auto pilot, interphased w/Micrologic Loran. Features 3 Lowrance depth recorders, 2 digital & 1 paper machine w/dual transducer selection, a printing sea water temp, VHF & CB radios. Sports an auto anchor windlass, outriggers, trim tabs, SW washdown, full polyurethane flotation in hull & cannot sink. Built-in tackle boxes, 2 fwd bunks, sink, stove, marine toilet, shore-power hook-up & built-in batt. charger. Stored inside, ready for viewing & water ready. Boat is mint. All this for the low price of $49,990. For appt. to view it, call 516-862-9254.

1985 20' PROLINE center console. Full transom, '85 115 Yamaha, VHF, depth finder, spray hood, dual batt., power trim & tilt. $8500. Days: 516-226-9030. Eves: 516-842-4169.

BLACK FIN 29 1984 COMBI
Custom tower, sunshade & controls. T/454 Crusaders, 330 gal. fuel cap. Top electronics inc. Furuno radar, Furuno LC-90 Loran, Icom VHF, Raytheon JFV-90 video DF - 600 watt. Double spreader outriggers. Compl. rigged for big game fishing. Custom stand-up cabin. Low hrs. At Montauk; mint. Serious calls only. Reduced: $76,000. 718-204-4777.

GRADY WHITE 1984 22' Seafarer walkaround. 185 hp and 15 hp Johnson O/Bs. 110 hours, custom canvas, SW washdown, dual batt, Standard VHF, Lowrance X15 recorder, Raytheon 550 Loran C, top condition, none better. $23,500. After 5PM: 516-421-9401.

1987 SEAWAY 20' center console. Boat & motor manufacturer's Demo. Less than 10 hrs. VHF, depth finder. Complete inst. Powered by Suzuki 200 hp Anniversary Edition. Compl. w/deluxe trailer. Will deliver. Ask: $20,000. 201-534-5057.

33' PENN YAN Cabin Cruiser, 1981. Sleeps 4. Only 225 hrs. 12' beam, draft only 22'', twin 255 hp MercCruisers tunnel drives, fly bridge, hot/cold water pressure, shower, washdown pump, trim tabs, depth finder, VHF, cb radio, Loran, generator. Full galley, large cockpit, dual controls, windlass anchor. Swim platform, rod holders, stereo, intercom, Hailer. Bimini top, bow pulpit, dockside power, full canvas, Electra/san CG approved head. Halon fire exting., fuel 300 gals., large salon. 2-boat owner; must sell. $49,000 or B/O. 516-922-0170.

1984 MC KEE 17' center console, 115 Mercury. Excl. cond. $6500. Day: 543-9850. After 7PM: 589-9745.

SEA CRAFT SF-23 1977. Hull in immaculate cond. Needs new outboard motor. 35 hp aux. Loran, VHF, recorder, trim tabs. $10,500. Trailer extra. 1 516-475-1424. Eves: 516-475-0811.

21' MAKO & 200 Evinrude. Both 1979. Outriggers, electronics, trailer. Clean boat. Low hrs. $11,000. 516-324-5128.

20' 1985 GRADY WHITE 150 Johnson, 18 hrs. Hard top, depth finder radio. Ready to go. Like new. $20,000. 203-661-1243.

18' 1971 SPORTCRAFT Bowrider, 85 hp Johnson, 1986 EZ Loader trailer. Good clean fishing boat. Must see. $2500. 516-242-9814.

28' UNIFLITE, 1979 F/B Sportfisherman, Twin FWC Crusaders. This boat is loaded with options, too many to list. Must be seen. For list of equipment and more info, Days: 516-491-5764. Eves: 718-229-4391.

SEA NYMPH 1987 Fishing Boats. Evinrude Outboards. KELLY'S OUTBOARD WORLD, 1531 Lakeland Ave., Bohemia. 516-567-3417.

FOR SALE: 1985 28' MAKO 1986 twin 200 hp C/R Yamahas. Custom Atlantic top w/compl. encl. & electronics box. Electro-San head, tackle trays, 4 hvy duty batt., 18' Lee outriggers & Pompanette SS 130 chair. R-20 radar, Koden Cus. 88 scope, micro. 5500. Voyager radio, Lowrance 3400 & Dytek 500 & much more. Repl. cost $65,000 plus. Ask: $48,500. Will Demo. 795-8090.

1983 SEACRAFT, 1984 175 hp Yamaha, T-top. Rigged for fishing. Best offer over $20,000. Days: 203-646-8080. Eves: 203-646-7788.

EVINRUDE O/B '77 175 hp, 25'' shaft. PT&T controls, SS prop & spare. Good cond. $2000. 914-947-2115.

1985 CHRIS CRAFT 25' Scorpion 254, FWC, 260 I/O Mercury. 20 hrs. on engine. Sleeps 4. China head, 2 live baitwells, galley. Many electronics, stereo system, dual batt. Wkdys: 212-406-3390. Wknds: 718-934-0499.

1978 CENTURY, 7000 Series, 27' 3''. Sleeps 4. New Mercruiser 230 engine, approx. 100 hrs. Galley, stand-up head. New Bimini top, side, aft curtains. Plus more. Excl. cond. In water at Montauk. $19,000. 914-693-4431.

1978 22' AQUASPORT Center, 115 Merc. rebuilt 1984. PT, Bimini, VHF, depth. $6300 Neg. 516-727-6656/728-8503.

1986 25' GRADY WHITE Trophy Pro, twin 170 hp Mercruisers, hardtop w/encl., outriggers, rocket launchers, bow pulpit. Full swim platform. Icom & Polaris VHF, Lowrance digital depth finder & surface temp ga. Furuno color scope, DF & Loran. Much more. Loaded. 127 hrs. $49,995. OCEAN SPRAY MARINE, 516-781-9878.

40' CHRIS CRAFT Sportfisherman, wood w/fiberglass deck. Ready for fishing or cruising. Pompanette outriggers & chairs. Sleeps 6. Loaded. Showpiece cond. Recent survey & engine overhaul. $45,000 incl. winter storage & '88 season dockage. 516-728-3721.

MOVING—MUST SELL. 1971 Stamas 26' Americana t/155 OMC I/O. Excl. cond. In water for Demo. $7990 Firm. Electronics neg. 516-273-2139.

22' SISU Bass Boat, twin 70 hp Johnsons. Brand new Demo. After 6PM: 516-728-3797.

SUZUKI®

SUMMER SPECIALS! 2-200 hp. Special prices on all V6s in stock. New 2-yr. limited warranty. JENSEN MARINE* 516-226-9739.

JUST REDUCED! Must sell now. 1985 Sea Craft 23' Sceptre, w/1985 Evinrude 235. Used 1986 only. Custom canvas, VHF, digital depth finder & more. $23,000. GOLDSMITH'S BOAT SHOP, Main Rd., Southold, 516-765-1600.

1972 SILVERTON 27' 318 FWC Chrysler Flying bridge, trim tabs. Very clean. $7500. 288-3361.

GRADY WHITE 1984 22' Seafarer Walkaround, 185 hp & 15 hp Johnson O/Bs, 110 hrs. Custom canvas, SW washdown, dual batt., standard VHF, Lowrance X-15 recorder, Raytheon 550 Loran C. Top cond. None better. $22,500. After 5PM: 516-421-9401.

1977 GRADY WHITE 20' 4'' center console, Hatteras model, twin 70 hp Johnsons. Twin axle trailer, Horizon VHF, Si-Tex HE32, AM/FM cassette deck. Outriggers, downriggers, 2 anchors. Custom canvas. Many other extras. Excl. cond. $9200. Days: 718-776-4800. Eves/Wkds: 718-463-1419.

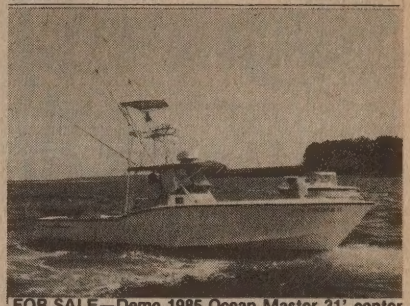
YAMAHA

YEAR END Clearance on 1987 engines 2 hp - 225 hp in stock. Below wholesale prices. BAYVILLE MARINE, 516-628-8686.

SUZUKI OUTBOARDS. First w/oil injection. 2-200 hp. LEE MARINE, Sayville. 516-567-3313.

BARGAIN: 23' Mako 115 Merc., sprayhood, digital depth. Excl. $5000. Days M-F: 212-973-6125. Eves: 516-541-8989.

21' GLASTRON 1983 Walkaround Cuddy, 150 Merc. Full electronics, sea water temp. Outriggers, full canvas. Excl. cond. Winter storage. $9000. 516-678-2567.



FOR SALE—Demo 1985 Ocean Master 31' center console, twin 200 Mercs. Very low hrs. Complete electronics, incl. Vigil radar-dash mounted, Rupp outriggers; 310 gal. fuel. Rhodes tower w/sunshade, dual driving stations, bow mounted fighting chair. Many, Many extras. Priced to sell. Full encl. & spray hood—not shown. DOC'S BOAT SALES INC., East Greenwich, RI 02818; 401-884-0580.

20 hp Mercury Outboard-$400; 15 hp Sears O/B. Brand new; in carton. 1-yr. warranty-$700. 14' Fiberglass, 2-man Marsh Duck Boat-$250. 653-9529.

1972 PACEMAKER Sportfisherman 1984 350 C.I. Crusader, dual helm, new flybridge cover. New prop, shaft & rudder. SW Washdown, gin pole, dual batt. Sleeps 4. VHF w/Hailer, DF/Paper recorder. Stainless wheels both stations. New steering, new fuel system—tanks, lines, etc. New carb. New distributor & coil. Hull stripped to bare glass; 3 coats of Micron 33. Good cond. $13,500. 516-731-2234.

1981 SEA CRAFT 225 Merc. Electronics, 180 hrs. 14K. 1978 20' Robalo, 115 hp Johnson. Enclosure; trailer. $8500. 516-621-1728.

21' Cuddy Fisherman. Loaded. No motor. Must be sold; offers taken. 516-728-6852.

GRADY WHITE 25' 1985 Sailfish, twin 150 hp Johnsons w/ext. warranty. VHF, depth finder, custom canvas, outriggers. Like new. PORT OF EGYPT, Southold, 516-765-2445.

SEA RAY 85 26' Weekender, 260 Merc I/O, VHF, DF, double canvas, windlass, tabs. Loaded. Mint. 2 boats; must sell. $26,000. 516-374-2312.

SS Radar Arch. Suitable for 40-50 ft. SF w/36 mile Furuno radar;$2000. Bimini w/encl. from 42' Bertram-$500. Groco 12V elec. head-$75. Good anchor davit-$50. Northern model N550 SS band radio-$100. Set dock wheels for float docks-$50. Thomas tilt mount for radar scope-$50. 516-365-8567.

24' 1975 AQUASPORT Cuddy. Sleeps 2. Twin 85 Johnsons, power tilt. $6500. 203-661-1243.

Continued On Next Page

"LOADED" Owens 31' Sportfisherman. Excl. cond. Fully equip. Twin 350s. $7500. After dark: 516-654-8323.

LUHRS 25' 6" Fiberglass hull & bridge, 225 hp Chrysler, 2VHF, CB, Hynautic steering, sea temp. Outriggers, trim tabs, Flo Scan & much, much more. Good cond. $8750. After 6PM: 516-433-2022

ONLY $7995 PRIVATEER

18' Privateer center console, 88 hp Johnson, elec. start, windshield/overrail. Freight & prep. incl. EDDIE'S MARINE SERVICE CORP., 210 Beach 2nd St; 718-327-3168. One location for the past 50 years.

GRADY WHITES

1987 New Grady White 24', 235 hp Johnson, new powerhead-$23,300

1979 Grady White Chesapeake 21' 2", 260 hp OMC I/O-$11,800

1974 Grady White Sportsman 19' 1", 1975 85 hp Johnson-$4750

PRIVATEERS

1984 Privateer 18' Closed Bow, 1984 Johnson 60 hp-$6950

1985 Leftover Privateer 18' Bay Prowler FWC 130 hp BMW-$9900

1979 Privateer Roamer 20' 2" center console w/ new Johnson 110 hp-$8735

1983 Privateer 21' 6" center console Volvo I/O 125 hp-$11,500

1985 21' 6" Privateer center console, 140 hp loop Johnson w/Johnson kicker, T-top, pulpit, r/hs & outriggers, Loran, VHF, graph D/F, sprayhood coolers, etc. Warranty. Inquire. Details: 718-327-3088

OTHER USED BOATS

1974 25' Slickcraft 10' beam twin Merc 180 hp. Low hrs. Electric dockside pwr, encl. head, ice box, etc-$17,995

1973 Marquis Caribbean 18' 9", 1973 115 hp Johnson-$3995

1987 23' Pro Line W/A cuddy, 225 hp Yamaha w/9.9 Yamaha kicker, custom hardtop, pulpit, hyd. steering, outriggers, livewell/washdown, color video, Loran, VHF, stereo, etc. Must sell. Inquire. Details: 718-327-3088.

EDDIE'S MARINE SERVICE CORP., 210 Bch. 2nd St., Lawrence, NY 11691; 718-327-3168.

22' IMP FISH 1986 230 hp I/O. Walkaround, anchor pulpit, 75 gal. fuel cap. Cuddy cabin, Porta-Potti. Fish & bait boxes, depth finder, compass. Owner moving. $15,000. 718-456-3750.

GRADY WHITE 230 Gulfstream 1987, twin 150 Mercury O/Bs. Only 60 hrs. 3-yr. warranty on hull & motors. Hardtop w/radio box & rocket launcher. Trim tabs, hydraulic steering, outriggers, full canvas & full gauge pkg. Loran, VHF, CB, Sea Temp & computer graph recorder. Dual batt. w/switches, fuel filters & Ritchie navigator compass. SW washdown, live well & F/W sink, 12 cabin rod holders & double bunks. Too much to mention. Dream boat for offshore fisherman. Priced to sell quickly in the mid-upper $30s. Call John evenings for appt. & test ride: 516-499-2288.

SEA RAY '75, 22' Cuddy, Merc. 188, I/O rebuilt 86. New vinyl, VHF, chart recorder, batteries. In water. Low hrs. Mint. Sacrifice. 516-798-9061.

BOATING EQUIP.

VOLVO Penta, high speed stainless steel prop. 14x23, 3-blade R.H. Excl. cond. $150. 212-885-1757 Eves. Bob.

PAIR 318 C.I. Chrysler 1972 FWC. Both good running. $2100/pair. 516-587-7695/598-0353.

BOAT TRAILERS FOR RENT: Single & Tandem Axle. Daily, weekly, monthly rates. Temporary & permanent hitches for sale or rent. BARN TRAILER SERVICE, 57-05 B'Way, Woodside, NY. 718-426-7039.

BOAT TRAILER REPAIR. Complete w/all new galvanized parts. FAZIO MFG. INC., 1121-16 Lincln Av., Holbrook, NY 11741. 516-563-2263.

BOAT TRAILERS: EZ Loader. All sizes in stock. Immediate Del. Priced right. Trailer hitches installed. SEAHORSE TRAILER, Glen Head, NY. 516-676-5313.

COMPASSES—COMPASSES—COMPASSES
Remember, if it has anything to do with compasses at all, give me a call! Huge inventory of Ritchie compasses. Expert installation & adjustment. Authorized repair service. I also carry a complete line of binoculars, sextants, clocks, barometers. JENS JACOBS NAUTICAL SERVICE, 516-757-7169.

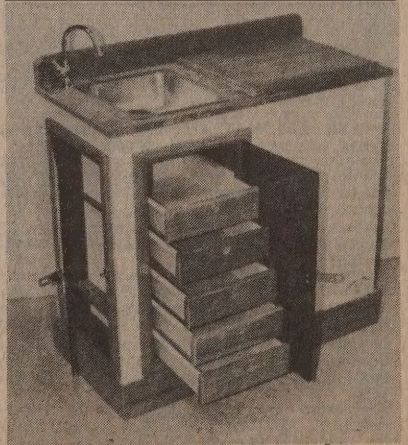
CUSTOM MARINE WOODWORK. No job too small: tackle lockers, instrument enclosures, consoles, bow pulpits, etc. Interior & exterior repairs & restorations. CUSTOM MARINE CARPENTRY, 516-623-1639.

Custom vented Winter Tarp & frame for 30' Sea Ray Weekender-$200. Twin 16x19 props, Si-Tex 767C Loran w/antenna-$325. And Misc. boat equip. 783-3674.

TRAILER HITCHES: Expert installation 4X4/RV. Accessories, CBs. Shoreline sales; repairs. ADR RECREATION & COMMUNICATIONS, Islip. 516-581-6411.

1 Pair Stainless steel Props 18X18, 1-3/8" shaft size. Perfect cond. $450. 581-3907.

LORAN: Si-Tex 757C. Complete w/coupler. $350. After 7PM: 914-428-3594.



TOURNAMENT PREP CENTER—versatile yet compact. Fiberglass, teak, stainless construction; 100 qt. insulated ice chest may be converted to a freezer or replaced by additional drawers, refrig. or ice maker. Brochure avail; custom quotes. NAUTICAL DESIGN INC., 128 Division St., Zelienople, PA 16063; 412-452-8611.

Engine 350 CI, GM, FWC. 240 hrs. 2-1 transmission. Compl. Runs perfect. $2000. After 5: 718-478-3542.

FISHING TACKLE

FOR SALE: Penn 80W. Used one season. Excl. shape. Price-$400 incl. original carton & instruction manual. Bought newer model. Can be seen Fisherman office, Mystic, Ct. 203-572-0564. Can ship UPS.

RADAR, Loran, autopilots, VHF, SSB, fish recorders. Sales & service most major brands. Custom installations. MARITIME COMMUNICATIONS INC., 377 Woodcleft Av., Freeport, NY; 516-623-4421.

LATE! LATE! LATE! It's not too late. EDELMAN'S. See ad Page 2.

DIAMOND JIGS, LURES, HOOKS
and other fine tackle at sensible prices. Free catalog. TERMINAL TACKLE CO., Box 427, Kings Park, NY 11754.

MITCHELL 498 Pro Reel skirted spool spinning reel. Manual pick-up, ball bearing large line capacity. Used very little. Fast 4.1-1 gear ratio. $50. Can be seen Fisherman office, Mystic, Ct; 203-572-0564. Can Ship UPS.

7 Matched 50 lb. class rods; Fenwick blanks, aluminum butts; 5 - 50 Internationals; 2 - 50W Internationals. All w/80 lb. line. All in mint cond. After 5: 516-667-0317.

MISCELLANEOUS

SURF FISHING GUIDE & TUTOR
NOW BOOKING FOR 1988 SEASON
Personalized Surf Fishing Instruction with LIF Editor & Surf Fishing columnist, Fred Golofaro. North & South Shores; Montauk. One or two anglers—day & night trips. All tackle supplied. 516-581-0077.

ATTENTION SURFCASTERS: For sale, pack of 6 inch Needlefish, wired through, 4 black, 3 white, pack only for $17.50. Pack of 5½ inch Rebel swimmers, assorted colors, 7 plugs for $14. Pack of 12 Redfin, 5½ inches, assorted colors, $24. Just Rite necklight-no batteries-with spare bulbs and nickel cadmium battery charger for $25. Fisherman office. 203-572-0564. Can ship UPS.

VIDEOS

The most exciting Bluewater Videos ever produced! Free listing & price list. Write: BRAID PRODUCTS, Box 1305 FM, Woodland, CA 91364.

WINTER STORAGE & '87 Summer Dockage avail. In Seaford. COMPASS ROSE BOATWORKS, 516-783-3220.

Custom Aluminum Push Bars & cooler racks. After 5: 516-981-0698.

ILLUSIONS BOAT POLISHING
Now is the time to have your boat protected for those long winter months. A professional cleaning & polishing now will make next spring's cleanup easier & less expensive. Free estimates. Chuck: 516-665-2271.

RELIABLE MARINE SERVICE
Sterndrive Winterizing Special: oil & filter change, winterize engine. Remove, service, reinstall outdrive, condition fuel, change zincs, remove batts. Parts & labor Volvo 4-cyl. $215. Merc V8 $235. We come to your house. Days: 321-4550. Night: 585-4594.

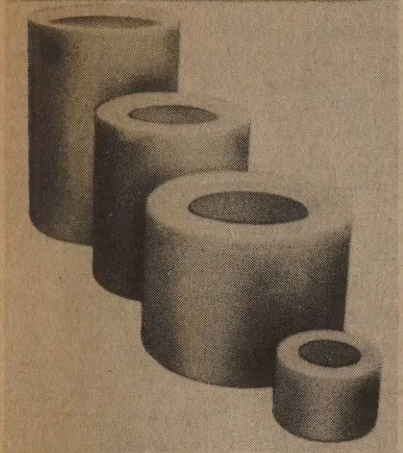
HELP WANTED—Full & part time retail sales, stock, shipping. MERRICK TACKLE, Bellmore, 516-781-7766.

FULLY LICENSED CAPTAIN—Available for water deliveries, boat/navigation; charts & trips. 516-795-4498.

DIESEL FUEL: Premium diesel fuel delivered to your boat. Buy direct & save. 422-2258.

LORAN Numbers for 60 of the area's hottest wrecks, reefs & fishing spots are avail. on a 4"x5½" fully laminated card which is waterproof, durable & compact. Simply send $5 to: DE MAPO ENTERPRISES, 1204 Ave. U, Suite 1231, Brooklyn, NY 11229.

BROTHERS BOAT CLEANING SERVICE
Washing, waxing, interior, exterior. Weekly, monthly, seasonal. Bottom painting. Spring, summer & fall services. Power washing, teak cleaning. Shrink wrapping. For free estimates, call the professionals. Tom or Phil: 516-265-0265.



LIVE BAIT WELLS, pumps & accessories. For free brochure, send $.25 p/h. THE CADDY CO., 57 Bayonne Av, Dept. E, Central Islip, NY 11722; 516-234-0144.

FREEZER 16 cubic ft. Gibson Upright 550 lbs. capacity; 4 fast freezing shelves, manual defrost. $100. 516-698-9423.

BOAT CLEANING: Washing, waxing, interior & exterior cleaning. All types of cleaning service. Weekly, monthly, seasonal rates. Special spring open-up service. Call for free estimates. LIKE NEW BOAT CLEANING, Richie: 516-826-3699.

CAPTAIN AVAILABLE: USCG 100 ton Ocean Operator licensed. 30 yrs. experience. Deliveries, charters, trips. Personalized instructions. 914-964-9451.

CARGO FREEZER: 8'x20', operating, 3-phase electric. Ask: $5000. 874-3938.

FISHING TACKLE GARAGE SALE: Sat., Oct. 17. Rods, reels, line, lures, accessories, tackle boxes—new & used. Manasquan Park, 9-3. For directions: 201-223-5729.

WANTED: Fishermen to share expenses. Boat in Montauk. Flounder, cod, weaks, porgies, tuna. Eves: 516-671-7690.

HOUSE PAINTING: Interior & Exterior by Jack "The Painter" Murray. Let us paint while you fish. 516-273-0960.

DUCK & GOOSE HUNTING on private land. Pit blind & professional guides at reasonable rates. 516-747-0289.

SURF SCOUT SAFARIS
Tired of trekking miles of beach? Use all your energy for the fish instead of the trek. Work the beaches & jetties from Montauk to Barnegat Light & beyond. A serious surf fisherman & his vehicle will be your guide & "legs." NY city based & will chase fish anywhere. Tackle provided. Contact: Ron Frank, 212-750-8480. 24-hr. answer service: 212-603-9554.

MERCRUISER Sterndrives repaired & overhauled. Rebuilt outdrives for sale. Trim cylinders rebuilt. HIGHLAND MARINE, 516-587-7567.

PENSION PLANS: Get the right one & fish for the rest of your life. THE RETIREMENT PLAN CO. OF L.I., 516-627-5569.

STRIPED BASS PIN: Lifelike solid cast metal Striper w/large, securely locking pin on the back. Looks great on cap or jacket. Antique silver finish. 3¼" long X 1¼" tall. Send ck. or M.O. $8.95 + $1 p/h to: P. MILLER, 150 Babylon Tpke., Merrick, NY 11566. TFN

WANTED!
Old-fashioned style Butterfish Jigs, preferably the mold. Top dollar paid. After 6PM: 516-221-0477.

BOAT TRANSPORTING—BOAT TRANSPORTING. Hi-pressure bottom washing, professional, dependable service. SANA HARBOR MARINE, 516-666-2292.

ATTENTION BAIT FISHERMEN: The Worm Man is back. Are you paying high prices for your bait; then call the Worm Man of Bayside for jumbo sandworms. $2-dz.; $15-flat, 10 dz. 718-631-2753 for orders & times open. P.S.-Also call about jumbo bloodworms & night crawlers. Best deal in town; lowest prices around. 1-718-631-2753.

AVAILABLE AT LAST! Beautiful full color print of artist Gary Patterson's famous painting "Half Day Boat." You won't believe the detail & crazy activities going on aboard. If you've ever fished on party boats you'll really love this print. 18"x24". Looks fantastic framed. Only $9.95 + $1 p/h to: P. MILLER, 150 Babylon Tpke, Merrick, NY 11566.

Rockaway Chair, compl. w/cushions. Super heavy duty. $650. 665-6629.

BEACH BUGGIES

The Ultimate Beach Buggy: Aluminum step van camper, w/refrigerator, freezer, bath, 45 gal. FW, stereo, CB. Must sell. $3850. 516-728-2797.

TOW Vehicle with heavy duty suspension & hitch. Good rubber. $500 or best offer. 516-668-2129.

REAL ESTATE

VACATION AT GULF OF MEXICO Hideaway waterfront home on Captiva Isl., FL. 3BR, 2Bth, deck, Jacuzzi. All amenities. Sleeps 8. Fishing, birding, shelling. Wk/month. Milton Berger, MD: 212-288-2297.

MONTAUK: Beautiful Cottages for rent on the cliffs overlooking Ft. Pond Bay. In-between Harbor & town. Daily; weekly. 516-668-2071.

JENSEN BEACH, Stuart, FL. Condo on the ocean. Sleeps 4. Excl. surf casting, bridge fishing. Charter boats, restaurants, bar, boat rentals. Weekly, monthly. 516-798-5555.

MONTAUK: Beautiful Cottages for rent on the cliffs overlooking Ft. Pond Bay. In-between Harbor & town. Daily; weekly. 516-668-2071.

RENT FLORIDA KEYS Condo, Duck Key, 2BR, 2Bth. Fully equip. Week or month. Bus: 516-264-2202. Home: 516-422-3492.

WATERFRONT
LAWRENCE N/Meadowmere Park. Mint 3 bedroom col, new kitchen, 1½ baths, thermal windows, decks, floating dock, garage, etc. Lovely modernized home. $179,000. Frank Anderson, Lic. Assoc. Broker: 516-872-8890.

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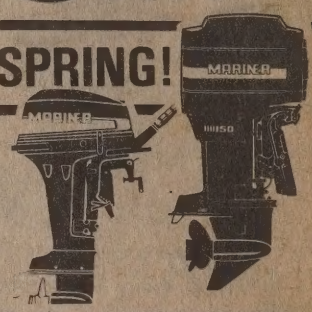

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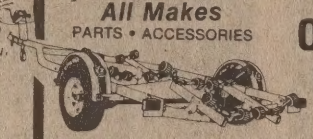

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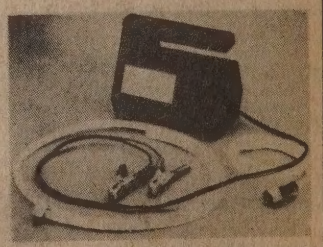

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